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THE VOICE OF THE KEY PENINSULA

April 2017 Vol.44 No. 04



Rep. Jesse Young (R-26th) at his March town hall meeting *Photo: Lisa Bryan, KP News*

Young Explains and Defends His Record at Town Hall in Gig Harbor

LISA BRYAN, KP NEWS

Rep. Jesse Young (R-Gig Harbor) of the 26th Legislative District held his first town hall meeting of 2017 March 11 at the city council chambers in Gig Harbor. The scheduled 90-minute event was “the largest town hall meeting we’ve ever had,” Young said to a standing-room-only crowd.

“I’m going to honor you with my candor and my availability toward you,” he said.

The line of constituents wanting to ask questions extended well into the back of the room. The meeting was orderly and the atmosphere civil, with nearly every constituent who spoke thanking Young for his willingness to hold town hall meetings.

Among other issues, Young was asked about his co-sponsorship of HB 1011, which would permit transgender persons to use restrooms on private or public property if the transgender individual has completed sexual reassignment surgery.

“Based on the fact there are 3,000 transgender children in secondary and primary schools in the state of Washington, with your strong support of family values in mind, what are you doing to actively support those families with transgender children?” asked a woman who identified herself only as Rebecca from Olalla.

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Parts of the KP may resemble old-growth forest, but the entire peninsula is second or third growth. *Photo: Ron Cameron*

Forestry Choices on the Key

SARA THOMPSON, KP NEWS

Trees and the timber industry are integral to Washington state and Key Peninsula history. Forests protect from erosion; are critical to reducing carbon dioxide in the fight against global warming; and provide habitat for insects, birds, reptiles, amphibians and mammals. Trees also provide lumber, paper and byproducts that make their way into such things as turpentine, chewing gum, nail polish, cleaning solutions and rayon.

In a recent interview with KP News, associate professor Kevin Zobrist of the extension forestry program at Washington State University described how a forest starts and develops in Western Washington.

The birth of a forest is marked by a

major event, such as a fire. Grasses and small plants take root and then sun-tolerant trees (Douglas fir and alder) begin to grow. The seedlings and young trees face drought, floods and predators, from insects to birds to mammals. Of those that survive, some become dominant, reaching higher into the canopy and benefiting from more sun. Smaller trees fail to thrive and some ultimately die, falling over and providing habitat and nutrition on the forest floor. Some taller trees eventually fall, opening up the canopy and allowing shade-tolerant trees (cedar and hemlock) and shrubs to grow. Over centuries, those trees come to dominate and the forest becomes diverse in age and species: an old-growth forest. “When people drive by a second-growth

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Robert Bosch, left, receives his lieutenant’s badge from Fire Chief Guy Allen. *Photo: Ted Olinger, KP News*

KPFD Promotes Firefighter/Paramedic Bosch to Lieutenant for a Second Time

TED OLINGER, KP NEWS

The Key Peninsula Fire Department promoted firefighter/paramedic Robert Bosch to lieutenant for a second time in his 27-year career at a ceremony March 14. In 2010, then Battalion Chief Bosch lost his job after an off-duty incident. He was reinstated as a new firefighter one year later after arbitration.

Bosch, 50, is nearly a lifelong KP resident who joined the department as a volunteer in 1984. He was sent to fire academy and put himself through medic school before being hired as a firefighter/paramedic in 1991. He was promoted to lieutenant in 2004 and then to captain in 2006. That rank was later reconfigured to battalion chief across the department to conform to industry standards.

In 2010, Bosch was fired for “off-duty conduct that was not acceptable behavior for a KP leader” at a firefighter’s conference, he said.

“That was a rude awakening,” Bosch said. “I was not the employee my employer needed at that time. I should have been a stronger leader and a better person.”

“The whole thing really made me reflect on what kind of person I was and what kind of a leader I was; what my weaknesses were. They’re more apparent when they get thrown up in your face.”

Bosch went back to school in 2011 to earn an associate degree in emergency

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FORESTRY CHOICES FROM PAGE 1

forest and see trunks of many sizes, they think the trees are all different ages when in fact they were all planted at the same time,” Zobrist said. “The larger trees are the dominant trees; the small ones will never be as large.”

The second- and third-growth trees on the Key Peninsula may not have the diversity of old-growth forests, but they do contribute to erosion and climate protection while also playing a part in the timber industry. Zobrist said that the U.S. is a net importer of lumber. Forestry practices in developing countries are often not sustainable and can lead to massive deforestation and erosion. He said it may be more environmentally sensible to use local lumber since it is grown and harvested responsibly and also avoids the environmental cost of shipping.

Current forest practices have evolved over the past 70 years. From the original agricultural approach—thinking of trees as a crop like corn where fields would be completely cleared and replanted—logging and replanting now aims to reflect the conditions that are more like the natural origins of a forest. If a tract is clear-cut, it should not be perfectly sculpted. Some trees are left standing to provide habitat and slash piles are also important, though

the ideal size may not be as big as some seen along the KP Highway. Microclimate variation can be provided with irregularities in the land surface.

“The time to invest is at the beginning and the end of a forest’s life,” Zobrist said.

Most of the logging done on the KP is with a state permit on 5- to 10-acre parcels requiring a six-year moratorium on further development imposed by Pierce County, together with a requirement to replant typically imposed by the state. The perspective of the state is that the forest will grow back and continue to provide environmental benefit. County permits are needed if land is to be converted to a use other than forestland and tend to require more tree preservation with buffers along the KP Highway and adjacent to wetlands.

Adonais Clark, planner with Pierce County Planning and Land Services (PALS), and Aileen Nichols, Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) field forester for South Puget Sound, both said that in Pierce County, it is easier than in some other counties to log with a state permit and then request that the moratorium be lifted. This means that a company can purchase land, log it and, after a relatively simple process, sell the parcel as a site for a single-family home.

The state created the moratorium process in 1997, requiring that each county offer at least one avenue for landowners to request a lift through a public hearing process. The state also provided a second, optional administrative process to request a lift. Pierce County adopted regulations in 1998 providing both avenues, making it much easier to log and develop compared to some other counties.

Clark said that to have the moratorium lifted, companies sometimes have to mitigate—add plantings in and around wetlands, for instance—but if the county had been managing the permit, it would not have allowed those wetland trees to be cut in the first place.

Clark also said that Pierce County Councilman Derek Young is aware of this and has requested that PALS staff review the county’s forest practices regulations to see if they need to be strengthened.

Educating landowners is critical, Zobrist said. WSU’s Extension Forestry Program, with funding from the counties in North Puget Sound, provides educational services to residents of those counties. If South Puget Sound counties could offer funding, the program could provide those same opportunities in this region. Zobrist estimated that if Pierce, Kitsap, Thurston and

Mason counties each contributed \$25,000 to \$30,000, it would cover the annual salary and benefits of the staff needed to expand the program to our area.

Washington State University’s forestry extension program offers a rich selection of educational videos, classes and other resources, including a list of consulting Washington foresters. www.forestry.wsu.edu

DNR has a small-forest landowner program offering financial and technical assistance “to enhance fish and wildlife habitat, reduce fuels, increase recreation opportunities, improve forest health, produce revenue or all of the above.” www.dnr.wa.gov/sflo

The Washington Farm Forestry Association provides educational programs. www.wafarmforestry.com

Pierce County Forestry Management also provides services. www.co.pierce.wa.us

The Northwest Natural Resource Group is a membership organization dedicated to promoting a sustainable, environmentally sound economy in the forestland of the Pacific Northwest. Its focus is on the smaller woodlands owned and managed by private landowners, smaller forest product companies, government agencies and nonprofit organizations. www.nnrg.org

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JESSE YOUNG FROM PAGE 1

“I believe gender should be based on your DNA,” Young said. “I believe that is the only substantive style that we can ever have concrete civil rights liberties based upon. If you start getting into relative terms, civil rights go out the door ... If somebody’s had the surgery, then go, but if not, I don’t want my girls in the bathroom with a guy coming in.”

HB 1011 failed to make it out of committee this session.

Young was also asked about sponsoring HB 1602 in reaction to the much publicized suspension and ultimate dismissal of Bremerton High School Assistant Coach Joe Kennedy for kneeling in prayer on the 50-yard line at the end of school football games. Young said the Bremerton School District was forced to punish Kennedy out of fear of lawsuits by activist groups. He authored HB 1602 to protect freedom of speech and religious exercise, he said. If signed into law, the bill would make school districts immune from liability for allowing prayer in public spaces.

One constituent commented on the prayer recited at the beginning of the meeting, telling Young, “It didn’t feel very inclusive to have a prayer in Jesus’ name when we are a culture of many faiths.”

HB 1602 also failed to make it out of committee during this session.

Nelson Stansbury of Olalla asked, “How can I reach you to make an appointment to talk with you if you don’t answer your emails? Do you have a local office where constituents can meet with you?” Stansbury said he emailed Young numerous times but received no reply, unlike his experiences with state Sen. Jan Angel (R-Port Orchard) and Rep. Michelle Caldier (R-Gig Harbor).

Young said he does not have a paid staff but has “volunteers covering my desk.” He asked if everyone understood that no representative or senator in this state has an office in district when the Legislature is in session. “We are all required to have our offices in Olympia while in session,” he said.

In late January, The Associated Press reported the state House of Representatives was taking action against Young to address “a pattern of hostile and intimidating behavior” toward staff. A Dec. 13 letter from House counsel Alison Hellberg stated that Young is prohibited from maintaining an office within his district for a period of one year and will not have a supervisory role over a replacement legislative aide.

“The allegations are both credible and serious,” the letter from Hellberg read.

Another constituent asked if Young would comply with the letter from the

House counsel to take anger management and management technique classes.

“No, I have not signed on to that,” Young said.

Young said he intends to file a lawsuit against the House over the issue, citing violation of his basic civil right to due process. “I have nothing to hide,” he said.

KPFD PROMOTES FROM PAGE 1

medicine and human services and later went on to earn a bachelor’s in emergency management. In May 2016, he earned a master’s degree in organization leadership.

Bosch also decided to improve his physical condition. “I was very overweight, but I just ran my first 10K last week,” he said. “I’m a grandpa; I want to be around for my grandson.”

About returning to work as a new firefighter, Bosch said, “I didn’t have a strategy; I just shut up and did my job just like I was a brand-new probie (probation firefighter): support the team and share my knowledge. There was a very uncomfortable year of really trying to win back their (fellow firefighters’) confidence. I don’t know if I’m there. I’m a lot closer. Some guys on the line have said, ‘You did your time. You can’t live 2010 every day.’”

“It’s no secret that Robert had a rough patch in the middle of his career,” Fire Chief Guy Allen said. “Since he’s been back as paramedic and firefighter, he’s worked hard and he’s earned an opportunity with his behavior and his pursuit of further education to be given a second chance, and I’m happy to be the person to give him that second chance.”

“I appreciate this more than I did 14 years ago, when I got promoted the first time,” Bosch said. “I thought they owed it to me then. Now, they’re willing to let me have a shot at being a junior officer again and I am not going to squander that opportunity. I am going to prove to them that their trust in me is well placed.”

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5601 Gustafson Dr. NW, Gig Harbor 253-851-8450
info@harborcovenant.org www.harborcov.church
Maundy Thursday - April 13, 7 p.m. Last Supper enactment
Good Friday Prayer Stations - April 14, noon-8 p.m.
Easter Worship - April 16, 8:30, 10 and 11:30 a.m.

Harbor Covenant Church - North

at Harbor Ridge Middle School
9010 Prentice Ave, Gig Harbor
Easter Worship - April 16, 10 a.m.

Chapel Hill Presbyterian Church

7700 Skansie Avenue, Gig Harbor 253-851-7779
www.chapelhillpc.org
Maundy Thursday - April 13, 7 p.m.
Easter Weekend - April 15, 6:30 p.m. in the Chapel
Sunday April 16, 8, 9:30 and 11 a.m.

Believers Fellowship

4112 Hunt Street NW, Gig Harbor 253-851-9286
www.believersfellowship.net
Good Friday: 7 p.m.
Easter Sunday: 8, 9:30 and 11 a.m.



Grace Church, EPC

10:30 am Worship on Sunday
Women's Hour of Prayer Tues 10:30 am
Women's Bible Study Tues 11:30am
Maundy Thursday Communion Service
April 13 at 5 pm

Ed Longabaugh, Pastor edL86@gmail.com
2406 McEwan Rd, Lakebay
253-857-7284 www.epcgrace.org



Longbranch Community Church

www.longbranchchurch.net

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Children's Church 10:30
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16518 46th St KPS, Longbranch
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Jesus Christ is the same
yesterday and today and
forever. Hebrews 13:8

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GRACE EPC

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Key Peninsula Lutheran Church

7:00pm - LAST SUPPER DRAMA

Longbranch Community Church

5:30pm - SUPPER & COMMUNION SERVICE

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICES

APRIL 14TH

GRACE EPC

5:00pm - GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

Key Peninsula Lutheran Church

7:00pm - GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

Lakebay Community Church

7:00pm - GOOD FRIDAY TENEBRAE SERVICE

WayPoint Church

7:00pm - GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

EASTER SERVICES April 16th

GRACE EPC

2406 McEwan Rd KPN, Lakebay, 857-7284
10:30am - EASTER SERVICE
www.graceepc.org

Key to Life Church of the Nazarene

KEY PENINSULA MIDDLE SCHOOL 549-9963
10:30am - WORSHIP SERVICE
www.keytolifechurch.org

Key Peninsula Lutheran Church

4213 Lackey Rd KPN, Lakebay, 884-3312
EASTER BREAKFAST 8-10am
10:30am - EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE
www.kplclutheran.org

Lakebay Community Church

11 Cornwall Rd KPS, Lakebay, 884-3899
7:00am - SUNRISE SERVICE at Camp Woodworth
9:30am - RESURRECTION CELEBRATION
www.lakebaycovenant.net

Longbranch Community Church


16518 46th Street KPS, Longbranch, 884-9339
8:15am - SUNRISE SERVICE at Herron Island
(Ferry Run at 8am)
10:30am - EASTER celebration
www.longbranchchurch.net

WayPoint Church


12719 134th Ave KPN, 853-7878
9:00am, 10:45am & 6pm - RESURRECTION CELEBRATION
www.waypoint-church.org

Wellspring Fellowship

6am - SUNRISE SERVICE at the Purdy Sand Spit
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KP Community Council	\$2,000
KP Easter Seals Camp Stand by Me.....	\$1,100
KP Cat Tales 4-H Club.....	\$600
YMCA KP Before- & After-School Programs.....	\$1,500
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10:00 am April 16

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Award winner Anne Nesbit. Photo: Ted Olinger, KP News

Anne Nesbit Named Key Peninsula Citizen of the Year

TED OLINGER, KP NEWS

The Key Peninsula Lions Club honored local resident Anne Nesbit with its 33rd annual Key Peninsula Citizen of the Year Award at a ceremony banquet March 18 at the KP Civic Center in Vaughn.

The award both acknowledges the achievements of KP residents and highlights the importance of volunteering. Club members accept nominations from the community and vote by secret ballot to determine the winner. Nesbit had been nominated three times before receiving the award this year.

Lions Club President Hal Wolverton said, "I know Anne fairly well, but as I was announcing the award and reading the list of her work, even I was surprised by how much she does."

Nesbit grew up in California, where she was a middle school teacher for 15 years. She moved to the KP in 2006 with her family and worked as a paraeducator and volunteer at Evergreen Elementary School, which her two children attended, and later worked as an ER tech at St. Anthony Hospital. She became a volunteer firefighter and medical responder in 2008 and is now a volunteer battalion chief

and is in charge of training recruits. The department hired her as an administrative assistant in 2012. Nesbit is also the executive director of the Key Peninsula Free Clinic, works as a trainer for teachers of the statewide public school youth mental health curriculum, speaks at schools about suicide and youth violence prevention, and is a Safe Sitter class instructor.

"She was also instrumental in bringing our citizen CPR program back to the community and she coordinates the Santa Sleigh at Christmastime," Wolverton said. "She's quite an amazing person."

Nesbit was not at the ceremony to accept the award, but said later, "I don't feel like I do anything different from the next guy. I do have the privilege to work with wonderful people in many different parts of the community though, and it is through our combined efforts that good things get done."

Nesbit has two children, Matthew, 15, a freshman and distinguished water polo player at Peninsula High School, and Grace, 12, a sixth-grader at Key Peninsula Middle School, where she is one of only two girls on the wrestling team. Of her mother's accomplishments, Grace said, "I always knew she'd do well."

Shelly Koyen OVER THE EDGE



It Takes a Village

As March approached, my teenage daughter and I grew giddy at the prospect of having a place to live that didn't involve mice, leaky roofs, freezing pipes and the constant shuffle of use required by a small circuit panel to provide heat, hot water and lights. Yes, we had a roof over our heads, living in a camper on a friend's property on the Key Peninsula, and we were thankful for that. But now we actually have four walls, a kitchen and a bath with a large tub.

It's funny the little things you take for granted, like how much you can miss your own mattress or your favorite teapot. Things like the luxury of taking a nice, warm bath or turning the heat on. It makes you realize what's important.

Living on disability, if you are fortunate enough to get it after becoming sick or disabled, as I have been, leaves you with very little to live on. After I lost my job and house, my daughter and I spent seven months in that camper. I searched for months to find a place to live that was within the means of my new income. A studio for \$725 out of a monthly allowance of \$980 leaves little even to the creative mind. But since I paid taxes last year, I was due a refund. That and an emergency grant from DSHS was enough to get us into a studio in Tacoma.

President Trump has recently proposed a federal budget that cuts programs that help with housing, food and utility payments for the poor, disabled and elderly.

House Speaker Paul Ryan is proposing a bill that will also repeal "Obamacare." If his American Affordable Health Care Act becomes law, Gov. Inslee said that over 700,000 people will lose health care coverage in Washington. President Trump has additionally sworn that he will stop all federal dollars flowing to sanctuary cities that seek to protect their undocumented residents.

On the Key Peninsula, churches are the primary source for utility, rent and food for people like me. Peninsula Light runs an assistance program for utilities from November to March. Fish food bank relies on donations and volunteer work. Jud Morris, executive director of the Children's Home Society and Family Resource Center on the KP, said, "We will continue to serve whomever shows up at our door."

But what can the rest of us do?

I have fallen back on that new old saying: It takes a village. It takes everyone contributing in some way to make a community

strong. Just going after what we want individually damages the bigger picture. Finding the median between our liberal and conservative differences and doing what's right for all should be the goal in mind.

I can no longer live in the Gig Harbor community where I grew up. Local resources, nonprofits and federal funding have helped me in a time of need. If that is taken away, what will happen to those who need assistance with utilities, food and health care? It is easy to judge those who are less fortunate, but if you give people hope and dignity, you build a better community.

Volunteer at your local church, food bank or school. Call your legislators and voice your concerns. Your county council wants your input. Donate to local charities that support medical care, housing and recovery programs for those needing a doctor, a leg up or a fresh start. Attend town meetings that bring the community together. Care for the elderly; that will be you one day.

I have a special place in my heart for those less fortunate, now that I live among them. It begs me to get well again so that I can make better use of my talents and the income they will bring. For now, I do what I can to get by and I am happy to be where I am.

Shelly Koyen became homeless after an extended illness and stayed on a friend's KP property until she could find an apartment. She and her daughter now live in Tacoma.

Derek Young COUNCIL UPDATE



Budget Proposal Impacts on the KP

The Pierce County executive proposed budget amendments last month on a number of issues important to the Key Peninsula.

Despite the addition of 10 sheriff's deputy positions since I joined the council, a recent study showed Pierce County is still short 65 positions. Seventy-nine percent of our general fund is already dedicated to public safety and justice services, more than almost any other county.

Unfortunately, that still leaves us with response times in rural areas that are unacceptable. That's why the executive and I are proposing the addition of a new deputy dedicated to the Peninsula Detachment. This would be in addition to the county's new property crime unit and community policing deputies added over the last two years. You may recall that the council received a number of recommendations for the Behavioral Health Bill after a study rein-

forced the need for one last year. After the failure of the bill in December, the council began looking at what we could implement now without new revenue. Fortunately, it looks like the executive and council are on the same page. With sales tax dollars coming in higher than expected in the last quarter and a number of budget savings here and there, we can afford to make some improvements without new revenue. Funded in the proposed supplemental budget are mobile behavioral health response teams to serve both urban and rural areas, a new 16-bed inpatient crisis facility, housing for homeless veterans and support for the new 120-bed psychiatric hospital. These improvements would fill some of the gaps in the system, but not all.

Last, the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department now shares an office with the Key Peninsula Community Council and Safe Streets in the Key Center Corral.

You can get help there with financial incentives for septic system inspections; water-quality information on bays and streams; other health department services.

The health department office hours are 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays.

We'd love to hear what other services you want on the Key Peninsula. Call 253-432-4948. For more information, call my office at 253-798-6654 or go to www.pierce-countywa.org/FormCenter.

Councilman Derek Young (D) represents the 7th District, including the Key Peninsula, on the Pierce County Council.

Meredith Browand KEY ISSUES



Voucher Education

With the election of President Donald Trump and the confirmation of Education Secretary Betsy DeVos, proponents of school choice have taken their place at the forefront of the national educational debate. DeVos is a longtime advocate of school choice measures and her selection has helped advance the opinion that a federal school voucher program is an effective means of education reform. H.R. 610, The Choices in Education Act 2017, was introduced in Congress by Iowa Rep. Steve King (R) Jan. 23 and closely aligns with DeVos' positions to reduce the authority of the Department of Education and establish a federal school voucher program.

Advocates for voucher programs say this bill will increase the overall quality of education while also decreasing taxpayer costs. Critics argue that voucher programs leave less money for public schools, therefore

causing special-education and low-income students to suffer the most.

Regardless of where you fall in the school choice and voucher debate, it isn't difficult to determine what the passage of this bill could mean to public schools in Washington.

A majority of public school funding comes from local and state revenue sources, but over 10 percent of all Washington school districts' budgets originate in the federal government. These funds are primarily earmarked to support programs aimed at low-income students, special-education programs and English-as-a-second-language learners. Proposed cuts to the Department of Education's budget in order to implement a federal voucher program would divert these funds from students in need. Essential services and vital programs would likely be cut in the name of making school choice the law of the land.

Proponents of a school choice plan as outlined in H.R. 610 contend that because a voucher requires less funding than the per-student dollar amount public schools currently receive, it would save the state money. If we look to the state of Indiana, which enacted a similar plan under then Gov. Mike Pence, we see that it isn't that simple. The cost of a voucher in Indiana is about 90 percent of what public schools receive per student. In theory, if a student were to leave the public school after receiving a voucher for a private or religious school, the government would save that 10 percent difference.

School choice advocates believe the math is this simple and that a voucher will save the government money. However, the facts don't support this conclusion. During the 2015-2016 school year, the majority of Indiana students who received vouchers had never attended a public school before. These vouchers were not being used to offer school choice to public school children. Instead, the vouchers were used primarily for students who were enrolled in a private school and who would otherwise continue to attend with or without a voucher.

School vouchers have been a popular idea with Washington conservatives for years and there was even a 1996 ballot initiative that would have allowed parents to utilize public vouchers for private school tuition. The initiative failed at the polls but two decades later, the idea may be gaining new life. The 2016 Washington State Republican Party platform indicated the party's support for "school choice through vouchers including: home schooling, private schools, public schools, charter schools and vocational and technical training." Although school vouchers haven't come to Washington yet, it is safe to say that a portion of our Legislature would welcome their arrival.

Is this the way we want to use tax dollars in Washington? Do we want to subsidize private education by diverting funds away from public schools that educate every child regardless of income or ability?

Back in Indiana, a study released by the nonpartisan Brookings Institute found that “public school students that received vouchers to attend private schools subsequently scored lower on reading and math tests compared to similar students that remained in public schools.” The study found that while public schools had improved, private schools did not because they were mostly exempt from state accountability standards.

Instead of shifting money from one group of students to another, we should spend it more wisely to help them all.

Meredith Browand is a mother and activist living in Purdy.

Sheila Ward Niven
FROM YOUR FIRE DEPT.



Community Connects

Have you ever wondered what projects the fire department is working on or what a Safe Sitter class looks like?

In an effort to encourage communication with and provide education to Key Peninsula residents, the board of fire commissioners has developed a new presentation series called “Community Connects.” There will be presentations from the fire department during the fire commissioner board meetings at 5 p.m. on the second Tuesday of every month. The first in the series was “Meet Your Paramedic” with Robert Bosch. Other scheduled presentations will include:

April 11: Suicide Prevention presented by Volunteer Battalion Chief Anne Nesbit

May 9: Emergency Preparedness. Lt. Rusty Wilder presented by Pierce County sheriff commander for the peninsula

Other topics in the works are a CPR demonstration, the Safe Sitter program and safe driving tips. The board is also soliciting input from KP citizens on topics.

What do you want to know?

More news:

The fire department’s Citizen Advisory Panel (CAP) has room for interested KP residents. The next topics for the panel to tackle include a review of the Future Planning document and the annual budget. See the district’s website or stop by the office for further information on joining this team (www.keypeninsulafire.org).

The Key Peninsula Fire Facebook page showcases weekly updates from

the fire chief, including recent activities and upcoming events. Over 2,600 people currently follow the fire district’s page.

Be on the lookout for our two new water tenders due to arrive in May.

As always, all are welcome to attend any fire commissioners board meeting, held the second and fourth Tuesday of every month at the Key Center Fire Station at 5 p.m. We look forward to seeing you there. *Sheila Ward Niven chairs the KP fire commission.*

Jan Walker
ON THE INSIDE



Prison Education Saves Money

Our state Legislature is considering a bill (SB 5069) to provide associate degree education to offenders inside our adult prisons. The bill is based on studies that demonstrate such education dramatically reduces recidivism rates, saving taxpayer dollars. It will also improve public safety by decreasing criminal activity.

Mass incarceration nationwide is estimated to cost \$80 billion taxpayer dollars per year. The studies cited by our Legislature include a 2013 Rand Corp. report that found every dollar spent on education inside prisons saved \$5 in recidivism costs. A 2014 Washington state public policy study estimated a \$20 return for every dollar invested in correctional education.

I taught adult offenders for 18 years inside the Washington Corrections Center for Women (WCCW) in Purdy and McNeil Island Corrections Center. Over half had committed nonviolent drug use and abuse crimes. The rest included those who had murdered, raped, assaulted and pillaged. No matter their crime, I met them as students and treated them as such. I strongly support this legislation.

During my tenure, I developed continuing education curriculum, several of which let eligible students earn college transfer credits. Those courses helped offender-students learn to think critically about subject matter and to re-examine the behaviors that led to incarceration. In the process, they also reached out to their families to rebuild bonds and help their children cope with the reality of the parent’s incarceration.

Our students came from diverse backgrounds, often with only the conviction of criminal behavior in common with their classmates. Even those students who initially groaned at the requirement to complete written assignments soon

CONTINUED PAGE 8



CIVIC CENTER

CORNER



April 22 is Parks Appreciation Day

In partnership with Key Pen Parks, we’re celebrating **Saturday, April 22 from 9am to noon.** Bring your shovels, rakes, pruners, loppers, smiles and enthusiasm. We’ll clean up the Civic Center grounds, playground, tennis courts and everything in between. No matter your skill, all you need are gloves and weather-appropriate clothing. Key Pen Parks will supply a hot dog lunch for workers. Dig in and help out!

16TH ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

FREE ADMISSION • FAMILY FUN & FOOD • LIVE MUSIC

TOUCH-A-TRUCK • TROUT POND • MASTER GARDENER • BOOKMOBILE

KP HISTORICAL SOCIETY • LAKEBAY FUSCHIA SOCIETY SALE

Livable Community Fair

May 6 ONE WEEK EARLIER THIS YEAR 10am to 3pm

Key Peninsula Civic Center



Be part of the Livable Community

There’s still time to become a sponsor of this popular event, showing your support of our community with a sponsorship, from as little as \$100. **Call before April 3** to secure your place in the spotlight. 253 884-3456

COMMUNITY CONNECTS FROM PAGE 7

found they had opinions and ideas they wanted to express and defend. They read textbooks and supplemental materials provided by the education program, thought and answered assigned questions about their reading and then discussed it with other students. They used analysis and reasoning to form their opinions and support them in discussions even while they were still struggling to define the term “critical thinking.” Their achievements in coursework segued to rethinking their life experiences and choices as part of the natural progression of education.

When I transferred from teaching at Tacoma Community College to help set up a college-based program at WCCW, I knew nothing about the prison culture. My initial assignment was to establish a program that included parenting, child development and family courses that would help students when they left prison. Most of the women were mothers who complained that their old family-relationships text was written for ninth-graders, and the parenting book assigned tasks to do with their children after class. Neither worked for them.

I began writing curriculum to fit their needs. My first two published books were a family relationships text and a parenting book designed specifically for them. Both became the basis for credited college transfer elective courses that were as popular with dads at McNeil Island as with moms at the women’s prison.

The core concepts focused on earning rights as a parent and member of society by accepting responsibilities for your choices and for your roles in the lives of others. It required students to learn about emotional, financial and legal responsibilities to their children and family members. It included a chapter on reuniting with children and family—information critically important to successful re-entry.

Ninety-five percent of all offenders return to society. Required programs include education, vocational training and work assignments. Those offenders who qualify for courses leading to an associate degree will gain skills that make them more employable and better prepared to reunite with their families.

Please support our Legislature in adopting the act providing associate degree courses to qualifying offenders in our adult prisons.

Jan Walker taught offenders inside WCCW and McNeil Island Corrections Center for 18 years and volunteered in a re-entry preparation program at Mission Creek Corrections Center for Women after retiring. She is the author of 10 books including “Unlocking Minds in Lockup: Prison Education Opens Doors.” She lives in Gig Harbor.

Dan Whitmarsh

WRITING BY FAITH



Remembering Who We Are

I recently sat with two older men who have called the Key Peninsula home for many decades. It was a privilege to hear their stories of days long past. They spoke of life before there were bridges and highways, neighborhoods and grocery stores. They remembered pioneers now buried in the Lakebay cemetery.

They remembered names that mark the roads out here, friends long dead, and hidden hollows in the woods lost to developers and progress. In hearing their tales, I was ushered into the history of this place we all call home.

It is good to remember stories that tell us where we’ve come from and who we are. Sometimes it’s so easy to get overwhelmed in the rush of the present that we lose track of the sweep of history around us. We can lose our sense of rootedness and the identity it gives us as we live in this particular time and place.

On a Wednesday in March, you may have noticed men and women walking around with crosses marked in ashes on their foreheads. You might have seen signs popping up advertising special church services for Ash Wednesday and Lent.

In this paper, you’ll find an ad for events related to Holy Week, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday Tenebræs and Easter sunrise services. To many people, these are strange words and odd practices. This ancient religious language can seem out of place in our modern world.

Christians use these words and the events they describe to help us remember who we are, where we’ve come from and where we’re going. These ancient stories remind us of a love stronger than death and a passion more powerful than the grave.

In Lent, we are reminded of this truth that we are made of dust and it is to dust that we all return. Many people fast, recognizing harmful patterns in their lives and making changes toward simpler and healthier living.

During Holy Week, we remember and celebrate the great example of nonviolent sacrificial love demonstrated by Jesus, the humble servant killed for daring to challenge a corrupt religious and political system. We retell his famous words, spoken during the Last Supper, that “greater love has no man, than to lay down his life for his friends.”

On Easter morning, we gather and retell stories of death giving way to life, of

renewal and rebirth, of hope renewed and restored. The earliest Christians declared “Christ is risen!” and so do we, as we stand around bonfires on cold, windy beaches, waiting for the sun to rise.

These are strange words in our modern world, but it is good to remember them. These words and actions define who we are, where we’ve come from and where we’re going. They connect us to the early church, and they renew hope for a future in which life conquers death.

The KP Ministerial Association wishes you all a hopeful and joyous Easter season. As winter gives way to spring, may you remember the story that marks your own life.

Dan Whitmarsh is pastor at Lakebay Community Church.

Corrections

The KP News incorrectly identified Mark Michel as KP Parks Board President in “Mountain Bike Race at Key Pen Parks” (March 2017). The board president is Ed Robison; Mark Michel is vice president.

The KP News article “KP Food Banks Work to Feed Community (March 2017)” stated that the Bischoff Food Bank serves 2,000 clients a year, comparable to other local food banks. Kimberly Miller, vice president and operations director of Bischoff, responded: “That is not correct: It is 2,000 people per month. Our clients can shop once per week, so in essence four times per month. Most are repeat families. Some come once per month, some come once per week.”

We regret the errors.

What do you like?

What would like to see in your KP News? Visit our new online survey at www.surveymonkey.com/r/Q3B9MNX

Letters to the Editor

A Thank You from the Superintendent

During my first seven months here, I have had meetings at least two or three times a week with some group, organization or individual seeking to find ways they can support our students and this school district. Every time I give a presentation, someone hands me a card stating how they want to help, support, add to or bring some form of expertise into the lives of our students.

I attended the Key Peninsula Business Association dinner in February. As people introduced themselves, I was thinking, “OK, that person works with us here, that person is connected there, this group has done this...” and on and on. The dinner was not focused on education, but all had some kind of engagement with our schools and students. I find this at every meeting. It is awe inspiring.

The support for schools is outstanding in this community and I want to personally thank all of those who continue to give. This includes parents, teachers, district staff, nonprofits, small businesses, large businesses, higher education, our local preschools (private and public), retirees, young professionals, parks and rec groups, our state and national representatives, our school board, and our students who work to make their schools and community better for everyone.

We in the schools and offices of the Peninsula School District are humbled by your generosity and efforts of support.

*Rob Manahan
Superintendent, Peninsula School District*

Education Funding

I would like to make a few comments on State Sen. Angel’s article about school funding.

1. Angel calls for teacher accountability. What about accountability for the members of the Legislature who have failed to do their job since the 2012 state Supreme Court ordered adequate funding for public schools? Would teachers be allowed to ignore a court order for five years? Will Legislators be held accountable for the \$50 million (and counting) court-ordered fine resulting from their failure to do their jobs?

2. Angel proposes to send whatever plan they come up with to the voters for final approval. The court didn’t order the voters to solve this problem; it ordered the Legislature to do it. Sending it to the voters is just a cowardly ploy to dodge political responsibility.

3. Angel touts the “fact” that the Majority Coalition Caucus proposal is going to save local taxpayers money. That’s just plain

disingenuous. Sure, the additional money needed to satisfy the court order may not be coming from local property taxes, but unless the Legislature has some printing presses hidden in the Capitol basement, the money is not going to appear out of nowhere; it is just going to be hidden in some other state tax assessment. (And does a group of 23 members from one political party and two from the other really meet the definition of the term “coalition”?)

I’m all for full funding of education, but when communicating, let’s be honest and upfront with the public.

Richard Schwartz/Longbranch

Logging on the Key

Even though logging companies need a forest renewal plan to get the permit that requires them to replant within three years, some have found a loophole where they purchase the land, clear it with a permit from DNR, then go to the county to get the property use changed and then resell it without doing the forest renewal plan and leaving behind a mess for the people of the Key Peninsula to deal with. The companies who are doing a lot of the clear-cutting on the Key Peninsula do not care about what is happening here, they are only looking to profit.

This is happening in my neighborhood right now and I have talked with the DNR. The gentleman who was hired to cut down the trees was the one who informed me that the companies are sending out letters to landowners on the Key who have timber on their land to see if they will sell. The property in my neighborhood wasn’t even for sale, and now they have started putting in the septic and well. I guess they went to the county and had it changed, even though their permit with DNR said they were going to replant.

I understand that this can work well for the selling landowner, but not for life on the Key.

Emme McAbee/Lakebay

Re: “Property Rights Stall Logging...”

Last month’s story, “Property Rights Stall Logging at YMCA Camp Coleman,” reminded me of something that happened some years ago on the Key Peninsula.

A property owners’ association road ran along the west boundary of the community. Their neighbor on the west had timber adjacent to the road and, as his own access was much less convenient, asked if he could use their private road to haul his logs to market. He said he would repair the road afterward.

If the community had an agreement in writing from the neighbor, stating that

he would pay for repairs needed to fix any and all damage to the road caused by logging near or hauling over it, he might have provided incentives for the logger to be careful and much of the damage that occurred could have been avoided. Estimates by professional road construction and maintenance people would have gone a long way to assess the true cost of marketing the timber.

This was not done, but the community decided to let him use the road out of a desire to be good neighbors.

The logging was carried out, the logs hauled, the road damaged and the owner learned what it might cost to repair the road. There might or might not have been enough return from the logging to pay for it.

The association pressed to have the road repaired. The neighbor put a gate across the access and locked it to keep community members off his property.

Enmity was established.

The principal players in this drama are dead and gone. The locked gate is still there, just visible through the brush.

Frank Slater/Vaughn

Logging Articles Miss Some Key Points

I am an associate professor with Washington State University Extension Forestry. I provide education and assistance to small-forest landowners in six Puget Sound counties. I try to keep up with forestry news in the area, and I have been reading the KP News’ series on logging on the Key Peninsula. There are a few things that would bring greater clarity to these stories.

In the first article (“Logging Laws on the Key Peninsula,” January 2017), the case study presented really isn’t about logging or forest practices. Squatters clearing land illegally are quite different from a small-forest landowner using a professional logger to harvest timber to send to a mill and then replanting. The people in this story were not practicing forestry. As such, it should be a separate issue from that of forest practices on the peninsula.

The story in the second article (“Clear-Cuts Increasing on the Key Peninsula,” February 2017) gets more to the heart of forestry, but something seems very off to me in this story. For that couple to have been paid \$4,000 an acre for 60-year-old trees is a travesty. Timber that age should have been worth at least \$20,000 an acre, not \$8,500, unless there was something really wrong with it.

The story also states that the landowner got 50 percent of the stumpage fee. Stumpage, the value of standing timber,

is the mill value minus the logging and hauling costs. In other words, after the logger is paid to cut and haul the timber, all of the stumpage value should go to the landowner. Either something is missing from this story, or the landowner got a really raw deal.

Our job at WSU is to educate landowners on forest stewardship. When we do workshops on harvesting, our No. 1 piece of advice is to hire the services of a professional consulting forester. The logger’s job is to buy the landowner’s timber for as low a price as possible. The landowner should not expect his or her financial interests to be represented by that same logger.

An independent forester works solely for the landowner, and is responsible for getting the landowner the best deal possible. The forester will take care of the permits, inventory the timber, market the timber for the best price, work with the logger, draw up a contract that protects the landowner’s liability and ensures compliance with that contract, including slash disposal and reforestation.

A forester may work at an hourly rate or for a small percentage (e.g., 5 percent) of the logging proceeds. I have seen cases where loggers put pressure on the landowner to eliminate “middleman” costs and cut the forester out of the equation. In one example, the logger pressured the landowner to fire the consultant and accept \$33,333 directly from the logger. The landowner stuck with the consultant and the winning bid for the timber was \$150,000. Not only that, but had something gone wrong (fire, injury or death, forest practice violations), the landowner’s liability would have been protected because of the consultant’s contract ensuring the logger was solely responsible for his actions.

Only six counties in Western Washington support a WSU Extension Forestry education program; most, including Pierce, do not. There are other resources available, including the DNR Small Forest Landowner Office, which provides technical support and on-site consultations; the Pierce County Conservation District and the Pierce County chapter of the Washington Farm Forestry Association. These are great resources for landowners on the Key Peninsula.

*Kevin W. Zobrist
Associate Professor, Extension Forestry
Washington State University/ Everett*

What is the KP News’ mission?

I have followed with interest a number of comments on Facebook addressing the conundrum of whether or not this news-

paper should provide a forum for people to voice their political points of view (“March Sadness” and “March Meaning,” March 2017). While Facebook news is unfettered by fact-checking or an editor’s due diligence, the Key Peninsula News tries to print opinion columns that are civil, informative and accurate.

But are they relevant?

The last time the KP News decided to run stories about other than specific KP events, its revenue dried up and it went out of business.

Years ago, the team who ran the paper thought that it should be a platform for anything local, regional or national that could affect the people on the Key. In doing so, they lost virtually every advertiser they had and many readers. After losing money for months, the KP News was shut down by its parent organization, the Key Peninsula Civic Center Association, in August 2002.

I happened to be on the civic center board at the time and told them I had newspaper experience and that I feared leaving the paper down too long might permanently damage or destroy the franchise.

The board agreed and we put together a team to resurrect the paper. With financial help from the Angel Guild and other donors, the first edition of the revitalized KP News hit the streets in February 2003, with new editor Rodika Tollefson at the helm.

There’s only one question in my mind: What is or should be the mission of the KP News? I know from personal experience what worked. And it was not to provide a 9,000 circulation monthly forum for off-peninsula discussions. I say let The New York Times, the Seattle P.I. and my old employer, the News Tribune, go out of business doing that.

The KP News was healthy sticking to strictly KP news and as one of its parents, I hope like heck it will prosper.

Bill Trandum/Vaughn

Letters to the Editor

Opinions expressed are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the views of the publishers or staff.

Letters to the editor must be signed and include a daytime phone number for verification. No anonymous letters will be published.

Letters are used on a space-available basis and will be edited for length and content. Mail letters to: P.O. Box 3, Vaughn, WA 98394, or email to editor@keypennews.com.

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Excellent selection of wines for every taste



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360 TRAILS POKER PEDAL

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FUN AND PRIZES!

APRIL 2, 2017

This is a family-friendly, unique bike riding event where riders visit 5-7 checkpoints, drawing a playing "card" at each point. The object is to have the best poker hand at the end of the ride. This event raises funds for further trail development at 360 Trails. Check-in is 10:30 am. Hands will be played, prizes awarded around 2 pm. Details/registration: bikereg.com. (Suggested age 10+)

\$25/RIDER OR \$35 DAY OF EVENT GET DETAILS AND REGISTER AT BIKEREG.COM



9 am to noon
Saturday, April 22
Home Park Volunteer Park
Rocky Creek Conservation Area
Looking for a great, family-friendly Earth Day project? This is it! *Rain or shine!*
Bring your gloves, rakes, loppers, clippers, shovels, hand saws and smiles.
No need to sign up, just show up!

Pet Easter Treat Hunt

A FREE EVENT!



Saturday, April 8 at Volunteer Park

Prizes! Costume contest!
• funniest • most original • best overall
Schedule: • 9 am photos with Easter Bunny
• 9:30 am treat hunt begins
• 10:15 am dog costume parade and contest winners announced

Thank you to our 2017 sponsors: Bayside Animal Lodge; Bed, Bark & Beyond; Brookside Veterinary Hospital; Hamp's Dog Obedience; Lifeline Pet Nutrition; Mud Bay; Paws and Kisses Pet Grooming; Wilco.

Nature Photography Class

with local photojournalist



David Montesino



8-10 am on Sundays - April 2, 9 and 23
Cost is only \$59 per person for all 3 sessions

A couple spots are still available! Sign up today!
Details and register at keypenparks.com.

Class is best suited for ages 16 and older and for those with a DSLR camera.

There will be a job opening in the marketing/recreation department at Key Pen Parks. Check our website soon for the full announcement or "Like" us on Facebook!

Are you a contractor, consultant, or vendor? If you are interested in doing business with Key Pen Parks, contact Scott at scottg@keypenparks.com.



Scruffy strongly resembles her half brother, shown here. *Photo: Don Lippincott*

Cow Missing from Jackson Lake for Six Weeks

TED OLINGER, KP NEWS

A 1-year-old Hereford cow called Scruffy escaped from her owner, Don Lippincott, of Jackson Lake Feb. 19 and hasn't been seen or heard of since.

"My friend, who lives around the corner, and me split the purchase; this would be our third cow," Lippincott said. "We've never had a problem."

Lippincott was unloading Scruffy from the trailer when "she got spooked and went through a fence that wasn't all that substantial into the corral, about 4 foot, and when she saw me coming, she took it almost like a steeplechase," he said.

"We tracked her through the forest from about 192nd through 190th Street off of 20th, and we lost the track," Lippincott said.

Scruffy is a big Hereford mix with the characteristic white face and red-and-white body. "She's got kind of the scruffy winter coat on her," Lippincott said. "We were hoping to possibly breed her and go from there. If you've got a herd of 12 and you lose one, that hurts, but when you've got a herd of one and you lose it, it really hurts."

At \$3 a pound, he estimates she could be worth \$1,000.

"We told all the neighbors, put up signs, and we're willing to offer a reward," he said. "But somebody's been taking my signs down. One young man actually told me he was

walking along the KP Highway near Home and saw somebody in a car stop and take down one of the signs and throw it at him."

Lippincott also appealed to the community for help through Facebook. "It's getting frustrating," he said. "I know people mean well, but the one that really teed me off was the guy who said, 'Looks like cougar food.' Well, this thing isn't like a 140-pound deer and big cats aren't stupid. They want the easy stuff and a 750- to 800-pound animal doesn't go down easily or without making a lot of noise.

"I'm just afraid she was poached," he said.

It is against the law to keep or fail to report an animal that wanders onto your property, Lippincott said. "They can be fined three times the loss plus up to six months in jail for keeping an animal and not reporting it," he said.

"I called the Washington State Department of Agriculture and they notified all the slaughterhouses and auctions and so on, because they have to show papers of ownership" if there's a transfer, Lippincott said.

"If it was somebody who was really hard up, OK I can take the hit," he said. "But if it's just greed, that's more than I can take."

Anyone with information on the whereabouts of the cow can reach Lippincott through Facebook or at 884-1907.



Park Ranger Janet Shonk surveys tidelands at Penrose State Park. *Photo: Lisa Bryan, KP News*

First ShellFest Celebration Coming to Penrose State Park

CAROLYN WILEY, KP NEWS

Park Ranger Janet Shonk hopes that many Key Peninsula residents will be drawn to Penrose Point State Park Sunday, April 30, to help celebrate ShellFest. The event runs from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Shonk explained that other state parks have hosted ShellFest celebrations, but this is the first year for Penrose. The goal is "to promote stewardship through awareness of what is on our beaches," Shonk said.

ShellFest is a public education component of Phase II of the statewide Washington Shellfish Initiative and WSI partners. WSI was established under Gov. Gregoire in 2011 to invest state and federal funding into addressing environmental factors that stand in the way of shellfish aquaculture and restoration efforts, including pollution, agriculture impacts and climate change. The partners want to engage shoreline communities in protecting and enhancing unique shellfish resources that are at the heart of creating shellfish farming jobs and helping clean Washington's waters.

A big feature of the day will be low-tide beach walks guided by local experts. Several groups are planning hands-on activities for children and there will be a touch tank for a hands-on experience.

Erin Ewald, the environmental compliance officer at Taylor Shellfish Farms, said that Taylor is pleased to be one of the partners making ShellFest possible and it will be providing lunch from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. "We will have shellfish to taste

and a display of products produced here locally in the nutrient-rich waters of Puget Sound," she said. "Lunch is free; however, a suggested donation of \$7 per person or \$20 per family will benefit our state parks."

Entertainment will be provided by the 133rd Army National Guard Band and by a local favorite, The Blue Grass Minstrels.

Participating WSI partners will have educational booths and displays that focus on restoration and protection of shellfish beds in Puget Sound. Participating agencies and organizations include the Puyallup Tribe of Indians, Washington State Parks and Recreation, the Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Department of Ecology BEACH Program, both state and local departments of health, the Washington State Parks Boating Safety Program, the Washington Conservation Corps, the Key Peninsula-Gig Harbor Watershed Council, the Pierce County Conservation District and Washington CoastSavers. Industry participants will include Pierce County Shellfish Partners and the Pacific Coast Shellfish Growers Association.

ShellFest is free, but vehicles will need a day permit upon arrival, or visitors may choose to support their state parks by purchasing an annual Discover Pass that is good for vehicle parking at any Washington state park for a year (www.discoverpass.wa.gov).

Want to go? ShellFest is at Penrose Point State Park Sunday, April 30, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The event is free but parking costs \$10 without a Discover Pass.

TECH HELP

Book a librarian to receive one-on-one help; register for an appointment online. Getsmart.pcls.us or 548-3309

APRIL 1 & 15**SUPPORT GROUP**

The Lakebay Depression and Bi-Polar Support Group meets 11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. at Key Peninsula Lutheran Church, 4213 Lackey Road KPN. Kimberly, 253-753-4270 or DBSALakebay@gmail.com

APRIL 3, 10, & 17**QUILTERS MEET**

Key Peninsula Quilters meet 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the meeting room in the Key Center Library. This is an open group for one's own projects, by hand or machine, which include quilting, embroidery, general sewing, knitting and crochet. Come for the whole time or drop-in.

APRIL 3, 10, 17 & 24**BLOODMOBILE**

The bloodmobile is at Albertsons 11:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

APRIL 4 & 18**SENIOR SHOPPING**

Seniors may grocery shop at various stores with a "Dutch" lunch. Transportation is provided. 884-4440

APRIL 5**FRESH FOOD REVOLUTION**

The Fresh Food Revolution cooperative reopened March 29 at the KP Civic Center. The first April pickup day is April 5. For details and membership information, go to www.freshfoodrevolution.org.

APRIL 6**FUCHSIA SOCIETY**

The Fuchsia Society meets 7 p.m. at KP Civic Center. Peggy, 686-7904

APRIL 6, 13, 20 & 27**CAT TALES**

Cat Tales meets 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. VFW Room at the KP Civic Center. 884-4182

APRIL 7 & 28**SKATE NIGHT**

Skate Night is at the KP Civic Center 7 to 9 p.m. Admission is \$5. 884-3456

APRIL 8**DECOUPAGING EGGS**

All ages (under 6 with an adult) create colorful papier-mâché Easter eggs 2 p.m. at the Key Center Library. Registration required at piercescountylibrary.org/calendar. 548-3309

LAKEBAY FUCHSIA SOCIETY

All are welcome 7 p.m. at the KP Civic Center. Coming up: planting and transplanting fuchsias. Peggy, 253-686-7904

APRIL 11**ASHES MEET**

The Ashes support group for FD 16 meets 10:30 a.m. at the fire station in Key Center. 884-3771

KP COUNCIL

The KP Council presents a panel of office partners at the new KP Community Offices: Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department, Safe Streets, Crossroads & Hope Recovery Centers, and KP Council at 7 p.m. at the KC fire station.

APRIL 11 & 25**CROCHET OR KNIT**

The Loving Hearts group meets 1 to 3 p.m. at WayPoint Church. Yarn donations welcomed. lovingheartsonkp@gmail.com or Virginia, 884-9619

APRIL 12**GARDEN CLUB MEETS**

The Bayshore Garden Club meets every second Wednesday of the month at 11:30 a.m. at the fire station in Longbranch. Wendy, 332-4883

APRIL 13**COMING HOME**

Jeb Wyman, faculty member of Seattle Central College, discusses the true nature of war and how it affects the human heart in a speech called "Coming Home: How the Humanities Help Soldiers Find Meaning after War," 7 p.m. at the Key Center Library. This event is funded by Humanities Washington and the Friends of the Key Center Library. 548-3309

APRIL 15**ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT**

The Alzheimer's Association family caregiver support group meets 10:30 a.m. to noon at The Mustard Seed Project at the Crandall House (formerly Road House Restaurant). This group provides a consistent, caring place for people to learn, share and gain emotional support from others who are also on the unique journey of providing support to persons with memory loss. Ray Steiner, 253-820-2213

APRIL 17**LEGO MINDSTORM**

Children ages 8 to 18 build and program a robot using Lego Mindstorm kits 4 to 5:30 p.m. at the KC Library. Registration (four at a time) is required at piercescountylibrary.org/calendar. 548-3309

APRIL 18**INTRO TO WORDPRESS**

Adults learn how to create a website and get a free account during an introduction to WordPress.com 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the KC Library. 548-3309

APRIL 27**BOOK DISCUSSION**

The Friends of the Key Center Library discussion group shares poems at 11 a.m. Bring a poem to read and discuss.

TOASTMASTERS OPEN HOUSE

The KP Toastmasters host a 7 p.m. open house at the Key Center fire station.

APRIL 28**HUMANS AT WAR**

Clover Park Technical College is live streaming Mary Roach, the author of this year's Pierce Country Reads title "Grunt," presenting the Curious Science of Humans at War 7 p.m. at the Key Center Library. 548-3309

APRIL 29**KP SAFE STREETS**

The KP Safe Streets program presents a crime protection workshop, "Environmental Design Crime Stoppers," featuring guidance on crime prevention strategies for home and business locations 10 a.m. to noon at the Key Center fire station. Morning coffee and Krispy Kreme doughnuts are provided. 432-4948, 272-6824 or gbyrd@safest.org

APRIL 29 AND 30**ANNUAL FISHERMEN'S BREAKFAST AND YARD SALE**

The Key Peninsula Sportsmen's Club holds its annual fishermen's all you can eat breakfast for \$6 Sunday, April 30, 7:30 a.m. to noon. Children 6 and under are free. The yard sale is Saturday, April 29, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday until 1 p.m. Both events help make it possible for local youth to attend summer camp and participate in Little League and provide support to other services in our community. The club is at 3503 Jackson Lake Rd KPN in Lakebay. 857-5184

OFF THE KEY**MARCH 31 TO APRIL 2****FRIENDS AT MIRACLE RANCH**

Join campers from Japan at an International Friends weekend camp experience including horses, paint ball, archery, campfires and more. Register your child today for a global experience at Miracle Ranch, 15999 Sidney Road SW. 877-723-4373 or information@crisnacamps.com

APRIL 1**FIRST SATURDAY ART WALK**

Free event 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. allows art enthusiasts to stroll through nine Gig Harbor galleries featuring artist demonstrations, displays and refreshments. Pick up a passport at the first gallery. Participating locations include Ebb Tide Gallery, Gallery Row, Water's Edge Gallery, Blackwater Trading Co., Sea Hags, Morso, Maritime Jewelry, Dolly Mama Boutique and Harbor WildWatch. 514-0071

APRIL 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29**GIG HARBOR FARMERS MARKET**

Peninsula Gardens, 5503 Wollochet Drive NW, hosts the Saturday farmers market 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Fresh flowers, produce, plants, baked goods, food, handmade crafts, a kids tent, entertainment and advice from master gardeners and more. gigharborfarmersmarket.com

APRIL 4, 11, 18 & 25**SUPPORT GROUP**

The Freedom from Tobacco Support Group meets Tuesdays 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at St. Anthony Hospital. The meetings are free. 223-7538

APRIL 5**CLOUD BASICS**

Adults learn the basics of cloud storage and how to manage and protect their personal data 6:30 to 8 p.m. at Gig Harbor Library. This event requires registration. 548-3305

APRIL 6**DEMOCRATS MEET**

26th Legislative District Democrats meet 7 to 9 p.m. at Givens Community Center, 1026 Sidney Rd, Port Orchard.

APRIL 8**CONCERT & POTLUCK**

The Olalla Community Club presents a concert featuring Terry Holder with Jerry Holder. Potluck at 6 p.m. and the concert is at 7 p.m. Potluck host is Nolan, 253-857-5650. Donation is \$20. Olallahouse.org

APRIL 14

DOCUMENTARY FILM

Filmmaker Louie Psihoyos and others draw attention to humanity's role in the potential loss of at least half of the world's species. Agnus Dei Church, 10511 Peacock Hill, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Jeni, 851-1619 or mmgigharbor@gmail.com

APRIL 14 TO MAY 6

PLAY PRESENTED

Paradise Theatre presents "Lend Me a Tenor" on weekends at 3114 Judson Street in Gig Harbor, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays and 2 to 4 p.m. on Sundays. Paradisetheatre.org or 851-7529

APRIL 22

FREE PAPER SHREDDING

The Canterwood Real Estate Team, 5727 Baker Way NW, Gig Harbor N., Suite 100, offers free shredding and recycling 9 a.m. to noon in honor of Earth Day. Bring up to four boxes. Mike Drake, 677-1120 or info@canterwood.com

SAVE AN EGG

Fourth through eighth graders learn about the important role of inventors as they engineer a safe landing for eggs dropped from an alarming height at the Gig Harbor Library 10:30 a.m. to noon. This event is sponsored by KeyBank Foundation, McGavick Conference Center and KNKX 88.5 FM and is presented by Pierce County Library System and The News Tribune. 548-3305

APRIL 29 TO MAY 1

PHOTOS FROM YEMEN

English teacher, photojournalist and one-time KP resident Luke Somers was captured by al-Qaida in Yemen in 2012 and killed there during a rescue mission in 2014. His family has arranged this first exhibit of photos bearing witness to both bleak and inspiring realities during the Arab Spring and the war that still engulfs it. Seattle University, Casey Building, fifth floor, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. www.youcaring.com/jordanandpaulasomers

WEEKLY EVENTS

MONDAYS & FRIDAYS

PLAY TO LEARN

Provided by Children's Museum of Tacoma, 10 to 11:30 a.m. at the KP Civic Center. This is a free drop-in program for preschoolers under 6 and adult caregivers.

MON, WED, FRIDAYS

SENIOR EXERCISE

The S.A.I.L. senior exercise class meets 10 to 11 a.m. at KP Community Services in Lakebay. Participants must register with Marilyn Perks, 884-4440.

TUESDAYS

SENIOR TAI CHI

9:30 to 10:30 a.m. at KP Community Services in Lakebay. 884-4440

STORY TIMES

Every Tuesday, discover books, learn nursery rhymes, sing songs, play with blocks and do arts and crafts at the KC Library. Music/Motion Story time (0-2 years old with an adult) is at 10 a.m. and Preschool Science Story time (2-5 years old) is at 11 a.m. 548-3309

KEY SINGERS

Key Singers are rehearsing for a May concert. If you like to sing and can carry a tune, you're welcome to join. Annual dues of \$10 help pay for rent, music and PHS scholarships. Meet at 7 p.m. in KP Lutheran Church sanctuary, 4213 Lackey Road, junction of Lackey and KP Highway. 884-5615

TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS

PRESCHOOL PLAY TIME

The Children's Home Society KP Family Resource Center offers a preschool/toddler indoor park program 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. in the KP Civic Center gym. Caregivers must stay with child. A \$1/child donation is suggested. Tami, 884-5433

SENIOR COMPUTER CLASS

Computer class for ages 55+ at 10 a.m. at the KP Community Services. Open forum is directed by questions and needs, great for beginners or moderate users. 884-4440

TUESDAYS & SATURDAYS

KP MUSEUM OPEN

The Key Peninsula Historical Society museum features a new exhibit titled "Then and Now" with special focus on the Vaughn Library Hall. The museum, located at the KP Civic Center, contains artifacts, pictures and stories from the whole Key Peninsula. Free. 888-3246

WEDNESDAYS

READY, SET, GO FOR PRESCHOOLERS

The Children's Home Society of Washington sponsors a free cooperative preschool class for 3- and 4-year-olds at KP Civic Center. Parents or caretakers participate

with the children, playing learning games, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. 884-5433

LAKEBAY WRITERS

A workshop for people who love stories. Share yours. Hear others. 1 to 4 p.m. at the KC Library. Loren Aikins, 884-2785

WRITERS WORKSHOP

The Watermark Writers free writers workshop 5 to 8 p.m. in Vaughn. 778-6559

WEDNESDAYS & FRIDAYS

SENIOR MEALS

Nutritious meals for ages 60+ are served at noon at KP Community Services; a \$2 donation is requested. Guests (ages 50-59) of senior attendees are requested to donate \$2.50. 884-4440

THURSDAYS

TOASTMASTERS

The Toastmasters meet 8 to 9 a.m. at the KC Library. Have fun improving your speaking ability The Toastmasters also meet at 7 p.m. on the second and fourth Thursdays at the Key Center fire station. 858-5761 or 548-3511

SENIORS LUNCH

The KP Senior Society meets at 11 a.m. for a potluck, games and fellowship in the Whitmore Room at the KP Civic Center. All are welcome. 884-4981

SATURDAYS

WRITERS GUILD

The Writers Guild meets the first and third Saturday 10 a.m. to noon in the Community Offices Suite D at the KC Corral. 884-6455

FAMILY STORY TIME

(new day/time) Families with young children enjoy spring stories 1:30 to 2 p.m. at the KC Library. 548-3309

PUBLIC MEETINGS

April 3, McNeil Island meeting, 6 p.m., Lakebay Marina. markscott@lakebaymarina.com

April 3 & 17, KP Veterans, 7 p.m., KP Lutheran Church; membership for veterans and military service members and families with children 16 years and older. 509-8656 or keypenveterans@outlook.com

April 4, KP Historical Society Board, 11 a.m. in museum; 888-3246

April 4, Artists Blend, 4 to 6 p.m., Blend Wine Shop, for all artists; info@twowaters.org

April 5 & 19, KP Lions, 7 p.m., KC fire station; 853-2721

April 10, KP Parks, 7:30 p.m. at Volunteer Park office; public is encouraged to attend. 884-9240

April 11 & 25, KP Fire Dept., 5 p.m., KC fire station; keypeninsulafire.org

April 12, KP Community Council, 7 p.m., KC fire station

April 13 & 27, Peninsula School District Board, 6 p.m., Harbor Heights Elementary Gym on 4/13; District Office on 4/27

April 13, KP Civic Center Assn. Board, 7 p.m., Whitmore Room, KP Civic Center; 884-3456

April 13, TWAA Board, 7 p.m., VFW Room, KP Civic Center; info@twowaters.org

April 17, KP Democrats, 7 p.m., Home fire station; johnpatkelly@aol.com

April 19, Longbranch Improvement Club, 6:30 p.m. social, 7 p.m. meeting, LIC; 884-6022

April 19, KP Advisory Commission, 6:30 p.m., VFW Room, KP Civic Center; co.pierce.wa.us for agenda; Toni Fairbanks, 253-798-7156

April 20, KP Citizens against Crime, 7 p.m., KC fire station

April 24, KP Farm Council, 6:30 p.m., in the Community Offices Suite D at the KC Corral; c.wiley@mac.com

The Community Calendar is brought to you as a public service by the Angels.



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Celebrating Spring on the Key Peninsula

With winter on its way to the other hemisphere, birds and blooms are predicting warmth and Key Penners are thinking "sunshine." Once the windblown branches are harvested and muddy ground has drained, we'll be planting summer gardens, start mowing again and doing everything to keep the yard healthy. Without the backdrop of gloomy rain, home improvements can move forward. Gutters, windows, decks and driveways all need a good cleaning, not to mention boats supporting a winter's worth of mold.

You're not alone in the battle. Every month, our advertisers offer home improvement, remodeling and handyman services. Gardeners know to watch our pages for the latest nursery sale. Whether you're buying a flat of petunias or fixing a deck, please remember to thank our local businesses for supporting your community and your community newspaper. We're all in this together, rain or shine.



Patricia Ruff shows off her hanging moss art panels. *Photo: Ed Johnson, KP News*

There's a New Gardener in Town

COLLEEN SLATER, KP NEWS

Holland native Patricia Ruff started her business, Rocky Bay Garden Creations, soon after moving to the Key Peninsula in 2016.

"The Dutch will use any occasion to gift flowers and they are always well received," Ruff said.

"Fresh flowers are more expensive outside of Holland, so with my inherited love for flowers, my love for gardening grew," she said.

She came to the United States after meeting her husband overseas while he was serving in the U.S. Navy.

Ruff traveled to many countries and had a few careers before launching Rocky Bay Garden Creations.

"My sense of home always travels with me and I'm a strong believer that you can make dreams come true," she said. "I've done it once before and my goal is to do it again." Ruff

was a successful horse trainer and riding instructor after dreaming of owning a pony as a young child.

"I always encourage people to follow their passion, be eager to learn, become good at what you do, and pass on the knowledge or experience you gain," Ruff said. "No one gets there alone and it is OK to ask for support or guidance. For example, Claudia Loy from Sunnycrest Nursery has given me very useful tips over the past year. That's what is so great about this community."

Ruff makes her own unique hypertufa containers and creates kokedama (Japanese moss sculpture) gardens with a variety of plants, including spring bulbs and herbs. "I love to design and to create things that incorporate greens, from preserved moss art to low maintenance plant container designs," she said.

Ruff believes most people want to enjoy their gardens, not become a slave to them.

"I hear a lot of 'I cannot even keep my cactus alive!'" she said. "Moss art is a perfect solution for that. It requires zero maintenance. You hang it on the wall and forget about it."

Moss art panels are good for areas like waiting rooms, entryways and restaurants.

"Greenery gives a sense of calm and also helps control humidity and purify the air," she said.

The preserved moss art was a big hit in her display garden for the 2017 Northwest Flower and Garden Show at the Washington state convention center in February in Seattle. There was a juried show where 10 designers created a "city living" display representing a small patio or balcony.

Ruff came home with three out of five awards: Best Sanctuary, Best Use of Plant Material and People's Choice Award.

"This was a huge accomplishment for me," she said. "It has opened new doors for me and made many new connections in the industry."

Ruff is still looking for outlets to display and sell her work, since she works from home and does not have a permanent retail location.

"At this point, I just encourage people to contact me directly if they have interest in my work," she said.

Ruff will teach a class on kokedama at Sunnycrest Nursery April 8.

For more information, go to www.rocky-baygardencreations.com.

Spring Home & Garden



stickers from refrigerators and furniture, and adhesive price tags from plastic and glass, only to end up with a smudged patch of adhesive that defies soft soap and glass cleaner?

Have you used a razor blade or nail polish remover, only to find they ruined the finish of your item? Have you turned to smelly chemical removers like Goof Off or Goo Gone in desperation?

It's time to try peanut butter.

Recently I was confronted with the task of removing duct tape that had been used to fasten protective board over hardwood floors and left in place for years. Duct tape is incredibly sticky—but it doesn't belong on floors where the weight of foot traffic adds to the adhering power of the fibrous tape.

I balked at the thought of breathing volatile chemicals for hours while I scrubbed off the gummy residue, so I turned to Google, searching for "natural adhesive removal." Cooking oil came up, but would be too runny for the floor. Then I came across a better suggestion: peanut butter. It has oil's

properties without the drips.

So I bought a jar of creamy Skippy (no need to purchase organic for this purpose!) with an opening large enough to dip my rag in. For a small job, you could spoon peanut butter into a plastic container, rather than contaminating an entire jar with dirt and fibers.

I applied the peanut butter with a clean painter's rag, waited a few minutes and then used a clean rag to rub off the adhesive. You don't need to buy painter's rags; strips of an old T-shirt work. Paper towels will tear, and microfiber towels will absorb the oil.

Circular motions, as though waxing a car, worked best and I was careful to keep refolding my rags so that I didn't rub tape fibers into the wood any more than necessary.

The project involved a fair amount of elbow grease, but what I thought would take a full workday took only a few hours and the results were great.

So, next time you're confronted with sticky residue you need to remove, reach for the peanut butter.

FROM 'BLUE DEER: FOUR GENERATIONS OF POETRY' BY COLLEEN SLATER

My Windows Need Washing

The birds are full of music
Sunlight beckons
After days of rain

I must go admire the trilliums
Johnny-jump-ups
Young green oxalis

Scatters of color
Against evergreens and barren earth
Fresh canvasses heralding a new season

Geese overhead
Proclaiming spring
Time to move on to new adventures

The windows will be there tomorrow



The Power of Peanut Butter

CATHY WARNER

Are you tired of trying to remove sticky labels from windows and bathtubs, children's

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Spring Home & Garden

Budget Friendly Do-It-Yourself Bath & Kitchen Transformations

CATHY WARNER

My husband and I bought a 60-year-old house a few years ago that desperately needed updating.

The bathtub and tile surround were original and no matter how much I cleaned, it looked dirty—stained and discolored from years of use. The kitchen cabinets were installed in the 1970s; depressing dark wood sticky from decades of buildup that no amount of Murphy's Oil Soap or TSP or could remove.

We had lots of time on our hands but not much money. My husband, who is always ready for a DIY challenge, found some budget-friendly options that were easy enough for me, a beginner with only painting experience, to use to transform our kitchen and baths with some assistance from him.

We chose Rustoleum's Tub and Tile Refreshing kit for the bathroom, a two-part paint-on version of the product that is no longer readily available. The replacement, Tub and Tile Aerosol, is sold at home improvement stores and appears easier to use.

You will also need tools to remove all metal fixtures, such as faucets and drains, as well as a blade to remove caulk before spraying. Prepare the tub and tile surface with fine grit sandpaper in advance and get new caulk to apply after the product cures.

Good ventilation is critical: We opened doors and windows throughout the house and placed a fan in the open bathroom window to exhaust air. I also wore a "paint project respirator mask" during the process. Once finished, there's a three-day wait to use the tub.

We used Rustoleum's Cabinet Transformation Kit for the kitchen and it contained everything we needed to turn our blah caterpillar brown into bright monarch butterfly (we chose the shade "paprika"): deglosser and scrubbing pads to prepare the cabinets,

bond coat, cheesecloth and polyurethane sealer. The kits are custom mixed in stores and available in a wide range of colors and stains.

In addition to using the kit, I painted the interior of cabinets and drawers white and upgraded the hinges. I painted the doors flat in an open garage but wasn't satisfied with the flat sheen of the sealer, so after the recommended two coats, I applied a high-gloss, water-based polyurethane with good results.

If you choose to refinish your kitchen cabinets, wait for warm weather and work on doors in a covered area (an open garage or carport) with plenty of ventilation. Move everything out of your kitchen and prepare for it to be out of commission for anything but using the fridge and microwave for at least a week while built-in surfaces dry and cure.

And, of course, once your tub and cabinets look like new, the counters will cry out for rejuvenation as well. We replaced the chipped laminate in our kitchen with new counters from IKEA, the least expensive in-stock option anywhere. But, if your counters are in good



shape, there's an alternative to replacing them, and that's just what my husband did this summer. He updated a house with faded laminate and pink tile counter tops using Giani (above) stone paint systems. Using the reasonably priced paint kit is a multiday process, but he created an attractive appearance on both laminate and tile counter tops in the kitchen and bath.

If you've got time and patience and follow the manufacturer's directions closely, you too can transform your hardworking kitchen and bath on a tiny budget.

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Spring Home & Garden



The Bayshore Garden Club will hang flower baskets and install flowerpots in Key Center for the third year in a row. From left to right are Wendy Walker, Kathy Lyons and Tedi Spiering. *Photo Courtesy: Kathy Lyons*

Bayshore Garden Club Brightens Key Center

STAFF REPORT

The Bayshore Garden Club is approaching its 70th year on the Key Peninsula. They are 25 women who love to garden. One civic beautification activity is the third annual cleanup of Key Center and effort to brighten the highway with hanging flower baskets. Last year, they added more baskets, two park benches (made locally) and welcome banners. Local businesses donate \$250 to sponsor each basket. The club will present each sponsor with a thank-you plaque to display.

The club meets every second Wednesday at 11:30 a.m. at the Longbranch fire station. All are welcome. For more information, call 332-4883 or see their Facebook page.



Lakebay Fuchsia Society 22nd Annual Sale & More

STAFF REPORT

Founded in 1995, the Lakebay Fuchsia Society will hold its annual sale of fuchsias starts, mixed sunshine baskets, fuchsia baskets, hanging violet bags, some vegetable starts, fertilizer and more Friday, May 5, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Saturday, May 6, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the KP Civic Center. There will be over 450 fuchsias for sale this year, together with other annuals such as geraniums. Raffle tickets for \$1 each could win a large fuchsia basket. Many experts will be on hand to answer questions.

The society will also hold its first "Shed Sale" of gently used garden items such as tools, books, pots and yard furniture.

The society will offer a fuchsia clinic June 10 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. where growers can bring in plants to get some advice on pinching, shaping and starting fuchsias.

The group holds monthly meetings at the civic center Whitmore Room at 7 p.m. on the first Thursday of the month except January, September and December. All are welcome. The fuchsia garden, established in 1998 at the civic center, is also open to the public. For more information, call Peggy Gablehouse at 253-686-7914.



Spring Sweetness. When the mother stopped nurturing, soft-hearted owner Lori Deacon brought this lamb inside as a spoiled, but temporary, house guest. *Photo: Lisa Bryan, KP News*

Brighten Your Outlook

Clean windows are a great way to welcome the sunshine. Start with a first pass at the panes, screens and tracks with a vacuum brush attachment to remove dust and debris. Screen pull-tabs are meant to be mounted facing indoors, allowing for interior removal. Be sure the frame is dry before remounting. Make a great all-purpose window cleaner by combining ¼ cup vinegar, ½ teaspoon liquid soap or detergent and 2 cups of water in a spray bottle. Clean microfiber towels do an amazing job., leaving windows streak-free. Use moist cotton swabs to remove mud/dirt from corners of grooves and tracks. Make sure the weep holes—slots on the exterior window frame—are free from debris.



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APRIL CLASSES See story on page 14

Japanese String Gardens
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Rob Dubinski is the new volunteer coordinator at The Mustard Seed Project. Photo: Don Tjossem, KP News

Another New Face as The Mustard Seed Project Grows

CAROLYN WILEY, KP NEWS

Rob Dubinski was hired in January as volunteer coordinator at The Mustard Seed Project, the latest sign of an elder-friendly community becoming a reality on the Key Peninsula.

Dubinski noted the strength of the volunteer base on the KP, saying, "I have great admiration for volunteers because they give the most valuable thing that any one of us has—their time."

The two divisions that Dubinski oversees are the Community Volunteer Network (CVN) and the Key Senior Information Center (KSIC), and he will also be coordinating an Alzheimer's support group. His job is to match the best volunteer with the needs of the person requesting assistance. In 2016, over 800 individuals took advantage of services offered by TMSP volunteers. A total of 4,296 acts of service were performed, or approximately 83 per week. About one-third of the services (1,546 rides) were provided by volunteer drivers.

The CVN provides in-home help for minor maintenance and repairs, such as yard work and installation of grab bars and handrails. In addition to undergoing background checks and general TMSP orientation, volunteers who make home visits receive training to recognize physical and mental issues that may affect people who are homebound.

The KSIC has four dedicated volunteers who maintain a list of service providers and can make referrals for professional

services depending upon the type of assistance needed—legal or financial, plumbing or electrical—and to a variety of health specialists.

In 2016, 288 Key Peninsula residents took advantage of CVN and volunteers engaged in 951 acts of service.

Dubinski credits his parents, both teachers, with instilling the drive to make an active contribution to his community. He has volunteered as a camp counselor and at a food bank, and has worked on six different Habitat for Humanity projects. After graduation from Indiana University, he worked for a youth counseling organization until an internship on a California dairy farm drew him to the West Coast.

After completing the California internship, Dubinski traveled up the coast to Seattle, where he took a job with Guadalupe House, a homeless shelter. He later transferred to Guadalupe House in Tacoma. He was offered the opportunity by chance to apply the skills gained through his work with Habitat for Humanity to the task of restoring the Key Peninsula cabin that Bill and Dory Meyer bequeathed to Catholic Community Services. He is currently the caretaker of the property and is living in the restored cabin.

For more information, go to www.themustardseedproject.org or call 884-9814.

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New KPC Offices Open With Health Department, Safe Streets

MATTHEW DEAN, KP NEWS

The Key Peninsula Community Council (KPC) officially opened the doors of its new Key Center office in early March. Representatives from Safe Streets and the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department will share the office.

The office is located in the KC Corral, in the suite that previously housed The Mustard Seed Project. The new office will serve as a fixed location for the KPC, from which it can organize projects, respond directly to community concerns and complaints, and provide information about programs and services.

The KPC previously had an office in Key Center that it shared with Safe Streets, but that was closed down over a decade ago due to budget constraints. "With the School Bus Connects Grants, with the Community Partnership grants and with the success of the Farm Tour, we've just begun to develop strongly and make it possible for us to grow back into what we always wanted, which was really to be a part of the community on a full-time basis," said Danna Webster, a council representative.

The KPC is a nonprofit organization "whose purpose is to address, respond to and meet the needs of the community residents," according to its website. Some of the projects include the KP Farm Tour, the School Bus Connects public transportation program and the KP Advisory Commission, a board that communicates with the county on land-use issues.

The health department plans to use the new office as a satellite location to offer local, easier-to-access resources on water quality and permitting. Frank DiBiase, director of Environmental Health for the department and a Key Peninsula resident, said that distance has been a major obstacle to KP residents in the past.

"Having an office (on the KP) is just to make it simpler and more convenient for folks who may have questions," DiBiase said. "We'd like to make it so people won't necessarily have to drive all the way into Tacoma to get questions answered or get application materials."

DiBiase also noted the importance of water quality, especially as related to waste treatment and septic systems. "Taking care of septic systems and making sure they're functioning properly is key to protecting

water quality," he said. New programs allow the department to offer financial incentives to those who wish to upgrade, repair or secure their septic system. The new health department office will also accept drinking water samples from well systems and send them to a laboratory for testing.

The Safe Streets nonprofit organization will also have a presence in the new office. "We want all neighborhoods to be clean, prosperous, and we want a high quality of life for our residents," said Gerod Byrd, the Safe Streets community mobilization specialist assigned to the KP.

Safe Streets focuses on organizing communities into crime-prevention groups and forming partnerships with emergency services and businesses. Safe Streets' presence on the Peninsula will include training sessions for neighborhood patrols, as well as crime prevention through environmental design (CPED) assessments. CPED is an approach that focuses on providing less attractive targets to criminals through property features like lighting and visibility.

Byrd emphasized the value of organization and awareness and the eventual goal of safe and secure neighborhoods. "For that to happen, it takes a community; it's not something that the government can do; it's not something that one individual can do; it takes everybody contributing something," he said.

The new office is located in Suite D of the KC Corral and will be open Monday through Friday, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.. The health department will have staff present on Tuesdays and Thursdays; Safe Streets hours are still being determined.

One Year In: KP Partnership for a Healthy Community Celebrates and Faces a Challenge

SARA THOMPSON, KP NEWS

The Key Peninsula Partnership for a Healthy Community just marked its one-year anniversary. Under co-directors Ben and Susan Paganelli, the partnership established connections and nurtured relationships among many local organizations. They created a website, established a steering committee to provide oversight and created three working committees (Hunger, Transportation and Health and Wellness) to identify resources and gaps. But the original grant paying for their work has ended.

Funding for the first year of the partnership came in late 2015 from the Milgard Family Foundation. The goal of the grant was to support major, cooperative and sustainable community improvement. The grant also provided funding to meet some immediate needs.

The partnership, sponsored by the KP Community Council, planned to leverage funds from a renewal grant to build capacity and increase sustainability. But, Susan Paganelli said, "due to changes in the Milgard Foundation, their focus shifted to short-term, immediate needs."

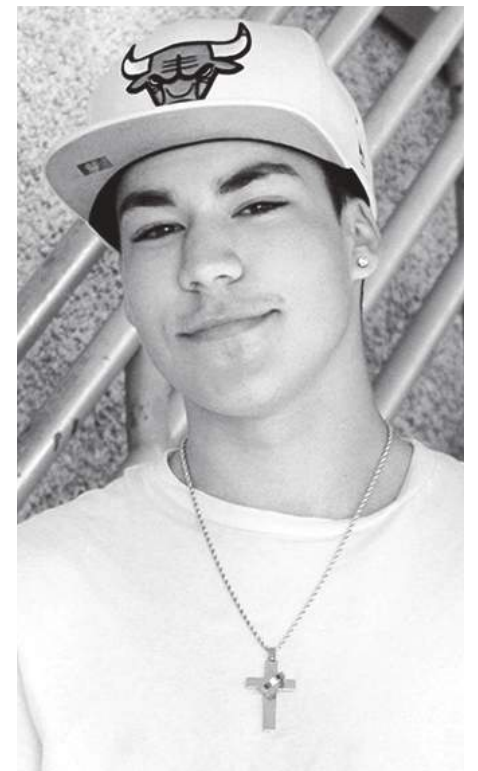
Paganelli described the partnership's approach as an asset-based community model that builds on existing strengths by connecting organizations that don't usually work together. And that takes time to develop.

"We have the proof of concept," she said. "If you know someone who got food at the Red Barn provided by Camp Seymour, or used the summer KP School Bus Connects for transportation, took a field trip at Evergreen Elementary, or participated in the Communities in Schools summer program, you saw firsthand what the partnership can accomplish."

In addition, having a new office for the KP Community Council has been important. The office, which opened in February at the KC Corral, provides a physical point of contact as well as an easily accessible meeting space.

"The ground has shifted," but those involved in the partnership, including the members of the KP Community Council, are confident that the work will continue, Paganelli said. The steering committee will continue to meet, the backbone of the working committees is still in place and volunteers, including a grant writer, are actively seeking funding to pay for the organizational infrastructure still needed. "And other groups are reaching out to us: The Sheriff's Department is exploring major changes in their community engagement," Paganelli said. "The (CHI) Franciscans and the school district have asked the partnership to be involved in Washington Frontiers of Innovation First Thousand Days, a program to prevent adverse outcomes through interventions in the first three years of life, including the prenatal period.

"The organizations serving the Key Peninsula all do a wonderful job, but there is no bandwidth for new projects or for additional coordination," Paganelli said. "The partnership can provide that bandwidth. Coordinating and connecting the independent energy in this community is a full-time job."



Peninsula High School senior Tacoda Anker is college-bound. Photo: Aris Sanders

From Suspended to Accepted

NATALIE SVINTH, MANAGING EDITOR, PENINSULA OUTLOOK

Six years after his freshman year of high school, Tacoda Anker, 20, will be graduating from Peninsula High School this June and has been accepted into multiple colleges, embodying what Dean of Students Andrew Hosford called "the most epic 180" he has ever witnessed.

"My feelings are incredible," Anker said. "Honestly, I never thought I would make it this far. It's kind of indescribable."

Anker spent years as a drug user struggling with the demand to engage with his school environment when his entire life revolved around the goal of becoming disengaged. After a stint of rehabilitation failed, a confrontation with his father convinced him to get clean.

"The breaking point was when he said I was super ungrateful and that I didn't deserve anything that he was giving me, which was true because I took advantage of anything I possibly could have to use drugs," Anker said.

"I quit (using) and went out and found a job, ended up buying a car, re-enrolled in school and got straight A's for the first time ever in my life because every year before that, I had all F's no matter what; that was because of the drugs," he said. "So, when I came back to school, that gave me hope. And all the people and

teachers there telling me I was doing a good job just made me feel good.”

Anker has been accepted into Central Washington and Washington State University, as well as Olympic College and Tacoma Community College.

After choosing to go to WSU to be close to his sister, who was adopted when he was younger, he received a unique phone call from the university.

“They said they are really proud of me and have never seen a comeback story like this; they wanted to congratulate me personally,” he said. “It brought out a lot of emotions in me that I haven’t felt in a really long time.”

Alongside the excitement is apprehension, since this will be Anker’s first time away from the Key Peninsula.

“I don’t know what is going to happen,” he said. “But I’m an independent person, so I like to go out and see new things and travel, so it’ll be a good opportunity for me to go out.”

Anker came from a place of calling suspension “free vacation” to being a semester away from earning all the credits he needs to graduate.

“There’s no way you can get away from doing it—you can’t cheat your way around doing that, you have to be here and be present in order to graduate,” he said.

What Anker will miss most about PHS is the understanding people and their support for how far he has come. He said teachers who have helped shape him along the way include Kimberly Napier, Andrew Hosford and Pete Weymiller, to name a few.

“All the years that I’ve been here, I met a lot of cool people and the teachers are pretty cool and a lot of them didn’t like me, but what’s neat now is I’ve gotten relationships close to all of the teachers I used to be mean to and all that stuff—and they seemed changed, too, so that’s pretty inspiring,” Anker said. “Having all these people around me who are influential and are inspired by my story helped me want to be here longer.”

A father’s approval was another huge motivator for Anker to stay in school and earn all his credits.

“(I’m going to be) able to show my dad that I’m going to college and really have good grades and graduate and have him see me walk across the stage and receive the diploma,” Anker said.

Along with the diploma will come a long-awaited handshake from Michael Blair, who refused to shake Anker’s hand after his freshman year, but promised to when he graduates. *(Reprinted with permission)*



Second-grade teacher Leanne Mebus reads with (from her left) Landon Olson, Danica Dahm, Tessa Traugutt and Chase Nunez. Photo: Don Tjossem, KP News

Flexible Classrooms Come to Minter Elementary School

FRANK SLATER, KP NEWS

Something called a “flexible classroom” is being used this year at Minter Creek Elementary School. When asked for a definition of this new concept, Principal Ty Robuck said, “I’ll show you.”

Leanne Mebus sat in her second-grade classroom at her learning table listening to a student read from his fluency folder. Three other students followed along in their own fluency folders. The folders contain

14 vocabulary-appropriate reading exercises, about 200 words long, and exercises.

The student reading snapped his fingers to indicate a period. Mebus discussed difficulties that came up in the reading as they arose. One point she discussed was the information provided by capital letters. She provided individual instruction to four students at a time for the duration of the reading sessions. There was a feeling of accomplishment among the students as the number of errors declined during the exercises.

While this went on, the rest of the students were paired up on the other side of the room, taking turns reading quietly to each other; each was a reader and a coach.

The second-graders at Minter have been grouped into three classes according to their reading ability. Students in the advanced group are provided enrichment opportunities when they become proficient in the skills being taught. Extra help is given to those in the least proficient group.

Learning Assistance Program coach Sally Gallagher and the three second-grade teachers evaluate the students every six weeks. A student who is progressing well may be moved to a more proficient class, while one who needs more help can move to where more help is provided. The classrooms are adjacent to one another so students who move just go to the class next door.

“Students whose parents read to them have a big head start when learning to read,” Gallagher said. “If their parents think learning is important, then students generally do well.”

The program has been in use for five years and students have improved every year. It is federally funded under Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. A similar, state-funded program called What I Need (known as WIN) is used for the fifth-grade math classes.

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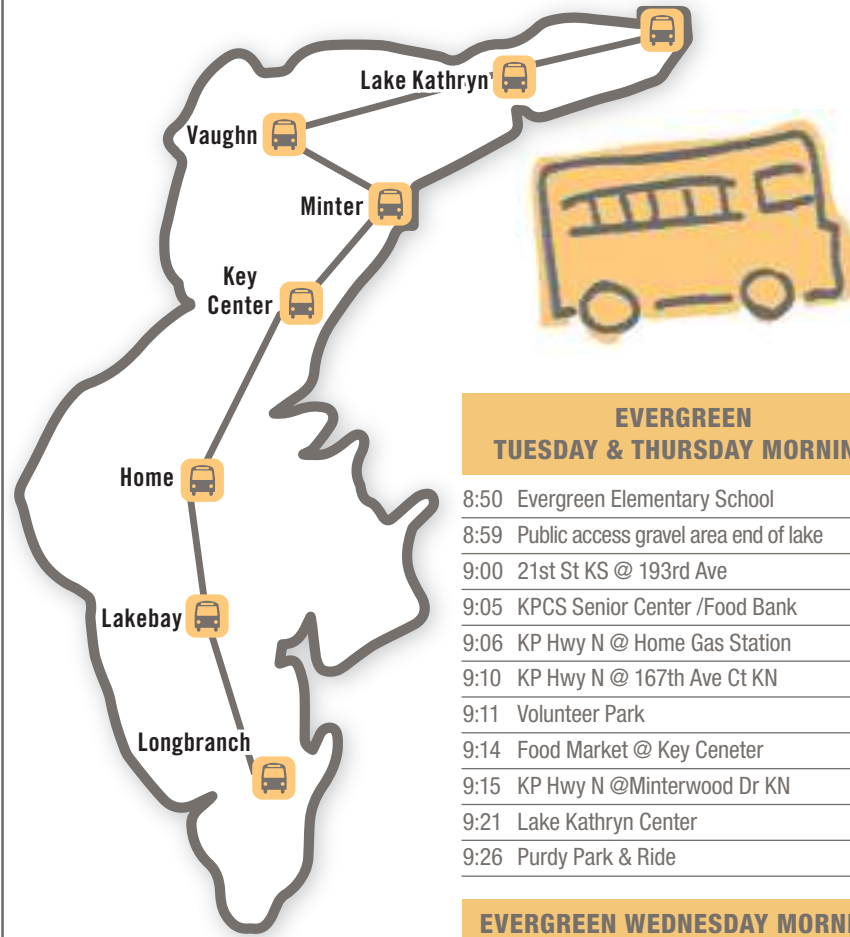
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- 9:56 Hall Rd KPN @ S. Vaughn Rd KN
- 9:57 Wright Bliss Rd @ 104th St Ct KN
- 9:59 Union 76 @ Four Corners
- 10:02 Lake Holiday bus shed
- 10:03 SR302 @ 140th Ave KN
- 10:05 Charbonneau Construction
- 10:08 Lake Kathryn Center
- 10:26 Purdy Park & Ride

EVERGREEN TUESDAY & THURSDAY MORNING

- 8:50 Evergreen Elementary School
- 8:59 Public access gravel area end of lake
- 9:00 21st St KS @ 193rd Ave
- 9:05 KPCS Senior Center /Food Bank
- 9:06 KP Hwy N @ Home Gas Station
- 9:10 KP Hwy N @ 167th Ave Ct KN
- 9:11 Volunteer Park
- 9:14 Food Market @ Key Ceneter
- 9:15 KP Hwy N @Minterwood Dr KN
- 9:21 Lake Kathryn Center
- 9:26 Purdy Park & Ride

EVERGREEN WEDNESDAY MORNING

- 9:50 Evergreen Elementary School
- 9:59 Public access gravel area end of lake
- 10:00 21st St KS @ 193rd Ave
- 10:05 KPCS Senior Center /Food Bank
- 10:06 KP Hwy N @ Home Gas Station
- 10:10 KP Hwy N @ 167th Ave Ct KN
- 10:11 Volunteer Park
- 10:14 Food Market @ Key Ceneter
- 10:15 KP Hwy N @ Minterwood Dr KN
- 10:21 Lake Kathryn Center
- 10:26 Purdy Park & Ride

VAUGHN TUESDAY & THURSDAY MORNING

- 8:50 Vaughn Elementary School
- 8:56 Hall Rd KN @ S. Vaughn Rd KN
- 8:57 Wright Bliss Rd @ 104th St Ct KN
- 8:59 Union 76 @ Four Corners
- 9:02 Lake Holiday bus shed
- 9:03 SR302 @ 140th Ave KN
- 9:05 Charbonneau Construction
- 9:08 Lake Kathryn Center
- 9:26 Purdy Park & Ride

TUESDAY & THURSDAY MIDDAY

- 10:47 Peninsua High School
- 10:49 Purdy Park & Ride
- 10:54 Lake Kathryn Center
- 11:03 11615 SR302 @ Windermere Realty
- 11:05 SR302 @ 140th Lake of the Woods
- 11:06 Lake Holiday bus shed
- 11:09 Union 76 @ Four Corners
- 11:11 Wright Bliss Rd @ 104th Ave KN
- 11:12 Olson Dr & Wright Bliss Rd KN
- 11:14 Food Market @ Key Center
- 11:17 Volunteer Park
- 11:21 KP Hwy @ 167th Ave Ct KN
- 11:24 KP Hwy @ Home Gas Station
- 11:27 KPCS Senior Center /Food Bank
- 11:33 Public Access Gravel Area
- 11:34 21st St KS & 193rd Ave KS
- 11:40 Evergreen Elementary School

TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY AFTERNOON

- 4:43 Peninsula High School
- 4:45 Purdy Park & Ride
- 4:51 Lake Kathryn Center
- 4:54 11615 SR 302 Windmere Realty
- 4:58 Lake Holiday bus barn
- 5:00 Union 76 @ Four Corners
- 5:02 Wright Bliss Rd @ 104th St Ct KN
- 5:03 Wright Bliss Rd @ Hall Road N
- 5:05 Food Market @ Key Center
- 5:06 Red Barn, KP Hwy @ 84th St KN
- 5:10 KP Hwy @ 167th Ave Ct
- 5:14 Home Gas Station, KP Hwy
- 5:14 KPCS Senior Center/Food Bank
- 5:19 Public Access Gravel Area
- 5:20 21st Ave KS @ 193rd Ave KS
- 5:24 KP Hwy @ 17th St Ct KS
- 5:36 Red Barn, KP Hwy @ 84th St KN

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The Longbranch Improvement Club: Annual Report to the Community

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”

Margaret Mead

What is an Improvement Club? Many neighbors on the Key Peninsula have heard about The Longbranch Improvement Club (LIC), but don't know much about it. According to the original Articles of Incorporation, the club formed a corporation in 1921 to buy “Real Estate for the purpose of a Consolidated School, Athletic, and Picnic purposes and to encourage any activity for the betterment of Schools, Homemaking, Roads, Marketing, Dairy, Poultry and all its branches.”

According to Key Peninsula Historical Society & Museum, “Improvement clubs grew out of the Progressive Movement that swept the nation from the 1870s to the 1920s. Civic duty and improving the quality of life were to be based on new learning and technology. This was a national focus, and Teddy Roosevelt tasked communities to focus on rural improvement.” It is interesting to note that even the City of Tacoma had an improvement club at one time; a scattering of improvement clubs remain active today.

In the 1940s when School #328 was discontinued, the LIC assumed ownership of the former gymnasium building, built in 1934 as a WPA project during the Great Depression. The old Pierce County pier in Filucy Bay had been abandoned in the 1930s when “Mosquito Fleet” ferry service to Longbranch was discontinued. In 1959, members of the LIC, through agreements with Pierce County and Washington state, took over management and maintenance of the marina. They built a 168-foot pier and attached it to the old county dock.

Today, the LIC continues to be active on the Key Peninsula. The building and marina still serve in the spirit of the founders of the LIC. The marina is open to the public for use by local and visiting boaters. The clubhouse, now on the Register of National Historic Places, is used by the club for events and is available for rent. In addition, the local Fire District uses the field for helicopter evacuation practices, and the Parks District holds a Day Camp at the facility each summer.

During 2016, the LIC sponsored —

- A very successful community garage sale
- A lively Opening Day at the marina
- Three holiday weekend dances (well attended by neighbors and visiting boaters) to celebrate summer holidays
- And as part of the Farm Tour, the LIC organized the fabulous Fiber Arts event (vendors are already signing up for 2017)

Youth activities are a very important part of our mission. Members organized —

- *Trunk or Treat*, in conjunction with the Evergreen Elementary PTA – complete with a carnival, haunted house and over 34 open trunks (with so many ghouls & goblins flying about we lost count)
- *Kids ‘n’ Christmas*, a Toys for Tots event with Santa, more than 250 people, and 50 Girl Scouts providing crafts projects for the children
- Funding scholarships for two graduating Peninsula High School seniors
- Providing tuition money for the Evergreen Elementary school’s 5th grade Environmental Camp Program
- Sponsoring the Little Toasters Club at Evergreen Elementary
- Supporting the Children’s Home Society summer activities

Our LIC members are also hard at work preserving the historic Clubhouse. In 2016, a Pierce County Historic Preservation grant was awarded so that the clubhouse exterior could be painted, windows re-caulked, chimney repaired and new doors installed on the north and south sides of the auditorium. Work continues in 2017.

Preservation efforts also continue at the Longbranch Marina in order to comply with new Department of Natural Resources requirements. New pilings were installed during the first week of February 2017 and more improvements are ongoing.

In 2016, members of the LIC worked together to form The Longbranch Foundation, a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. In affiliation with the LIC, it is focused on raising funds for the preservation of its historic structures, maintenance of the LIC grounds for public recreational use, preservation of the environment of Filucy Bay, support of scholarship programs and public school activities, and support of other community service organizations and activities. The Longbranch Foundation is excited to present our biennial fundraiser *Summer Fest On The South Key*, Saturday, August 12. It will be a fun-filled evening in Longbranch with a catered dinner, music, live and silent auctions featuring unique items and experiences, and a “Raise the Paddle” component. Proceeds from the event will support local scholarships and other Key Peninsula youth activities. Watch for more information.

Membership in the LIC is open to anyone living on the Key Peninsula. General meetings are held at the historic clubhouse on the third Wednesday of each month, alternating dessert or dinner potlucks starting at 6:30pm with a general meeting or educational program starting around 7:00pm. Need more? Visit www.licweb.org



The Longbranch
Improvement Club

BETTERING OUR COMMUNITY SINCE 1921

Local Author Talks About Inspiration, Work and Luck

TED RALSTON, SPECIAL TO KP NEWS

Dick Dixon has eight self-published books under his belt, all historical fiction except two. Initially drawing on his experiences in the U.S. Army in both war and peace, he has expanded to incorporate sailing, post-apocalyptic survival, the cloak-and-dagger world of French Indochina, and Native Alaska Inuit life facing climate change. His latest novel, "Inuit," follows the harrowing adventures of a Japanese pilot in the U.S. Army.

Dixon recently sat down with the KP News to discuss his books and development as a writer.

KP News: Have you always wanted to write?

Dixon: I was always too busy. When I finally retired permanently nine years ago, I decided to write my memoir and some 600 pages later, I found I liked writing.

KP News: What has helped the most in developing your skill as a writer?

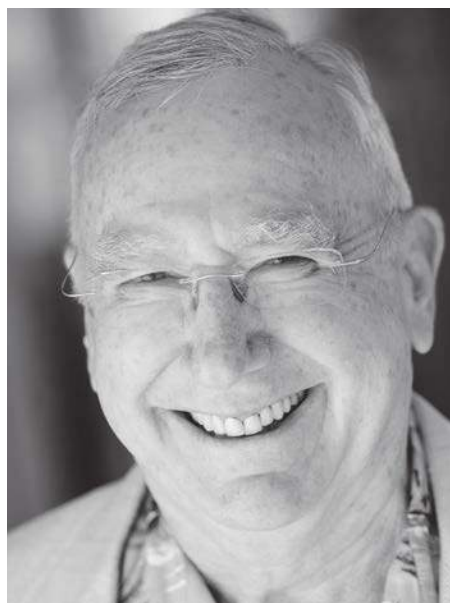
Dixon: Travel and experience helped the most. A fair vocabulary is a must. Our writers group helps to air ideas. The biggest "help" is to just sit down and write.

KP News: Do you have a particular approach or process for writing?

Dixon: It usually takes about six months to get to a first draft. I don't spend a lot of time self-editing this version. At this stage, I start rewriting, eliminating the chaff, looking for stuff that fails to move the story along. I expect to cut the first draft by half and add some new material. By the third and fourth iteration. I have investigated every word. James Michener said, "I'm really not a good writer, but I'm a terrific rewriter."

KP News: What have you found to be the easiest things to write about? The hardest?

Dixon: The easiest is recalling action, whether wartime or on the ice floes of the Bering Sea, as in my latest novel, "Inuit." Initially, the Vietnam firefights and Boston childhood skirmishes were hard to write about, but after I forced myself to get them down on paper, this difficulty eased up. The hardest thing for me is to develop depth in female characters. My wife provides input to help overcome this,



Richard A.M. Dixon just published his eighth book. *Courtesy Richard A.M. Dixon*

and so does the writers group I attend at the Key Center library.

KP News: Where do you get your ideas?

Dixon: Experience. I've lived and worked over most of the Northern Hemisphere. I've tried everything there is; don't need a bucket list. There really is no substitute for experience.

KP News: How does an aspiring writer get rich and famous?

Dixon: If you want fame and fortune, you must throw the dice. You must get an agent, which is an entirely new challenge. If you're lucky, you'll find one who will sell your story to a major publisher. If you're lucky, the book will sell. You have to be lucky. Expect to be overlooked. Think about Herman Melville, author of one of my favorite books, "Moby Dick," who never sold the book in his lifetime.

KP News: What authors have influenced your writing the most? What books are on your nightstand?

Dixon: Over the years, I've always kept four writers close at hand: Ernest Hemingway, Dean Koontz, Kenneth Roberts and James Michener.

KP News: Would you say your stories incorporate any grand ideas or themes?

Dixon: Hemingway taught me that a hero doesn't necessarily win or take grand chances with fate. Papa's ideal hero was embodied in "The Old Man and the Sea." Though he loses and is ultimately beaten down, he gets up and carries on. Mike Dillon of my Dillon's war trilogy is that sort of character, along with Claude Lellange of "The Tiger of Dien Bien Phu" and Bobbie Jack of "Inuit." My stories always contain a hero who accomplishes daily tasks and perseveres in the face of debilitating adversity.

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OBITUARIES



Dolores Joan Argabright of Lakebay died peacefully at home Feb. 25. She was 88 years old.

Argabright was born in Ridley Park, Pennsylvania, and moved to the West Coast in the 1960s. She settled in Southern California, where she attended college and became an elementary school teacher. After her children were grown, she returned to school and earned a master's degree in education from California State University. In the years that followed, Argabright devoted herself to teaching and taking education courses, eventually becoming president of the political arm of the California Teachers Association.

Argabright fell in love with Lakebay after visiting friends in the area. She and her husband, Wayne, left Southern California in 1995 and built a home on 5 acres of woodland with a view of Carr Inlet.

Though retired, Argabright continued her interest in teaching children. She served as a volunteer tutor at Vaughn and Evergreen elementary schools for 11 years and was also active in the Peninsula High School scholarship program.

Argabright worked with many charitable organizations. She supported the Food Backpacks 4 Kids program by raising funds and providing weekly provisions. She helped collect items for the KP Community Center food bank and made donations to its veterans assistance program. She served two years as president of the Penrose Guild, which raised funds for the Mary Bridge Children's Hospital and was active in many other community activities as well, including the Welcome Club, The Soundsations, the Bayshore Garden Club, and Blade and Spade. Because she gave so freely of herself, Argabright was honored with a nomination as KP Citizen of the Year.

Argabright was able to stay in her beloved home in the woods the last few months of her life thanks to the caring and faithful caregivers who loved her. She is survived

by Wayne, her husband of 21 years; her son, Fred of Riverside, California; her daughter, Diana, of Moreno Valley, California; her two grandchildren, Colin and Amber; and two great-grandchildren, Cayden and Colt.

A celebration of life for family and friends will take place April 22 at 5:30 p.m. at the Longbranch Improvement Club with music and dinner.



George R. Newcomb, wearing his Royal Canadian Air Force tartan tie and shoulder plaid. *Courtesy Newcomb family*

George R. Newcomb was born in Mayerthorpe, Alberta, Canada, in 1921. He died peacefully at home in Tacoma Jan. 14 at 95.

Newcomb was raised learning the hard work ethic and skills of a farm. He joined the Royal Canadian Air Force at the start of WWII and trained in aircraft maintenance, specializing in the Lancaster Bomber. He served across Canada and in England. After his service with the RCAF, his training and skills took him to a civil service career at McCord Air Force Base and Fort Lewis.

Newcomb met and fell in love with his wife, Norma, after the war while both were visiting Tacoma. They were married in Vancouver, B.C., and moved to Tacoma, where they spent 68 years together and became U.S. citizens.

Newcomb was a skilled craftsman who built four homes. He loved traveling, boating, working in his garden, playing golf, tennis and the harmonica. He was known for playing Taps during sunset at the vacation home he built on Herron Island, where he and his family spent nearly every weekend and many vacations.

Newcomb was preceded in death by his parents, Stephen and Maggie Newcomb, and his three brothers and four sisters. He will be greatly missed by his wife, Norma; his daughters, Linda (Ron) Purbaugh; Sharon (John) Lisicich; two granddaughters; five great grandsons; and many nieces and nephews.

A family graveside service was held at Haven of Rest in Gig Harbor. If desired, please consider donations to your favorite charity in lieu of flowers.



Geraldine C. (Eichhorn) Blayden died Dec. 10, 2016. She was born June 19, 1931, in Minot, South Dakota. She was married to Yvon Blayden for 66 years and lived on the Key Peninsula for 54 of them. She had six daughters, eight grandchildren and seven great grandchildren. Blayden was an extraordinary woman with many gifts and how she loved her family was one of them. She touched the hearts of everyone who knew her and is deeply missed. Special thanks to everyone who works at hospice.

In Memory Obituaries are printed free of charge by the KP News for community members. Please limit submissions to 250 words and provide quality photographs when possible. Send to editor@keypennews.com.

Bill Teresky died Feb. 27 at the age of 91 at his home bordering Rocky Creek. He was born in Trenton, New Jersey.

Teresky was a very private person, appreciated and respected by his neighbors, who benefited from his skills as a master builder and fixer. He shared his thoughtful philosophy of life and never stopped searching for its meaning.

He is survived by his wife, Mary Watson, who will remain in the house Bill built over 30 years ago. He is also survived by nephews and nieces and their children in Trenton, and will be fondly remembered by his four stepchildren.

There will be a private celebration of his life when spring comes to the wooded acres he gently developed and greatly enjoyed.

Betty Louise Beal of Gig Harbor died March 14, 2017, after a short illness. She was born in Port Orchard in 1928. Beal was a very special, kind person who loved life and her family, and was an active local volunteer in the Gig Harbor area for more than 50 years. Funeral services were scheduled for March 23 at Rill Chapel in Port Orchard. A memorial and tribute wall is online at www.rill.com.

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Photos by Former KP Man Killed in Yemen on Exhibit

TED OLINGER, KP NEWS

The work of photojournalist and one-time Key Peninsula resident Luke Somers will be exhibited in a show at Seattle University April 29 to May 1. Somers was abducted by tribesmen belonging to al-Qaida in Yemen in 2012 and died during a failed rescue attempt by U.S. forces in December 2014. He was 33 years old.

“We don’t want people to forget Luke and what he was doing,” said his mother, Paula Somers, of Palmer Lake. “He was a brilliant photographer and writer, and we just want it to be known.” She and her son, Jordan Somers, are organizing the exhibit. They also plan to make Luke’s photos available for purchase, with proceeds going to a charity in Yemen.

Paula Somers has lived on the KP for nine years. Luke Somers lived with her from May 2009 to February 2011 while taking a course to learn how to teach English in a foreign country and developing his photography skills. He went to high school in Renton and attended Beloit University, where he graduated in 2008 after studying abroad in Morocco and Egypt. He worked in various parts of the United States, including Washington, D.C., and Alaska, and had volunteered abroad, when he decided to teach overseas.



Luke Somers, center, and friends in Taiz, Yemen. *Courtesy Paula Somers*

of lots of everyday sorts of things that other journalists weren’t doing, like a women’s bowling team or children painting on a bullet-ridden wall. He admired these people so much.”

In 2012, Somers began work as a copy editor and photographer for the National Dialogue Conference between local and foreign government officials and tribal leaders working on a peace agreement.

Somers was abducted in September 2012. “He was actually about to come home, right before this (abduction) happened,” his mother said. “We hadn’t seen him for a few years and he was ordering clothes off of eBay and having them ready here for when, you know, he got back. He was going to be back by Thanksgiving, but the conference just kept going on. In the end, it didn’t fare too well.” He and a second hostage were killed in December 2014 during a rescue attempt.

The photography exhibit, “A Luke Somers Retrospective: A Day in the Life of Yemen,” will be open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., April 29 to May 1, at Seattle University, Casey Building, fifth floor. For more information, go to www.youcaring.com/jordanandpaulasomers.



Women march during the Arab Spring in Yemen in 2012 in one of the photographs that will be on exhibit. *Photo: Luke Somers*

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Key Peninsula Civic Center, 17010 S. Vaughn Road 253/884-3456 www.kpciviccenter.org The Key Peninsula Civic Center Association, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, fosters and promotes the civic, social, cultural and general well-being of the Key Peninsula community.

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TOP The sun rises over Eagle Island and Mount Rainer as seen from Filucy Bay. *Photo: Richard Hildabl* **LEFT** A male pileated woodpecker menaces a freshly cleaned feeder as spring returns. *Photo: Daniel Jackson* **RIGHT** Evergreen Elementary School Principal Hugh Maxwell, left, confers with Evergreen parent Cathy Reaney on a point of horticultural etiquette while pulling blackberry roots and other nonnative plants from 2½ acres adjacent to the school for an outdoor learning center to be called Wildwoods. *Photo: Beth Porter* **LOWER LEFT** Dorothy Bouvia Lusby, former English teacher at Vaughn and Peninsula high schools, celebrates her 106th birthday with son, Brian, lower right; and former students Norma (Stokke) Hitter, Janet (Gourlie) Hook, Dian (Sass) Tallman, Dick Brentin, Francis Pinchbeck and Carol (Ingham) Hughes. When asked how she was feeling these days, Lusby said, "Very good. I could dance a jig!" *Photo: Ed Johnson, KP News* **LOWER RIGHT** Woodwind maestro Maris Johnson leads the recorder section during a Vaughn Elementary School musical showcase March 9. *Photo: Ed Johnson, KP News*

